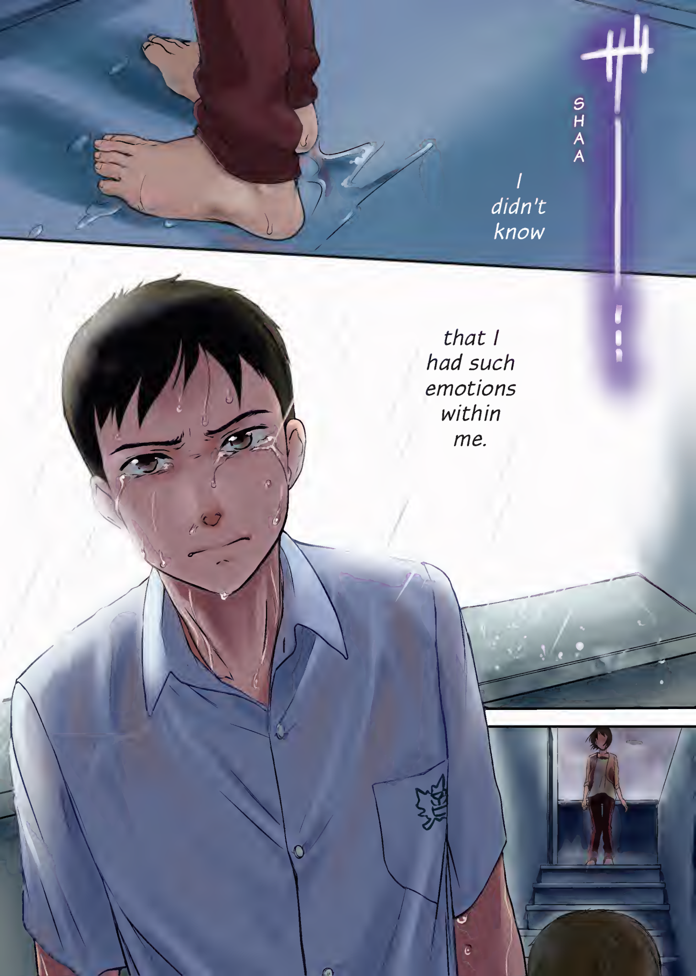
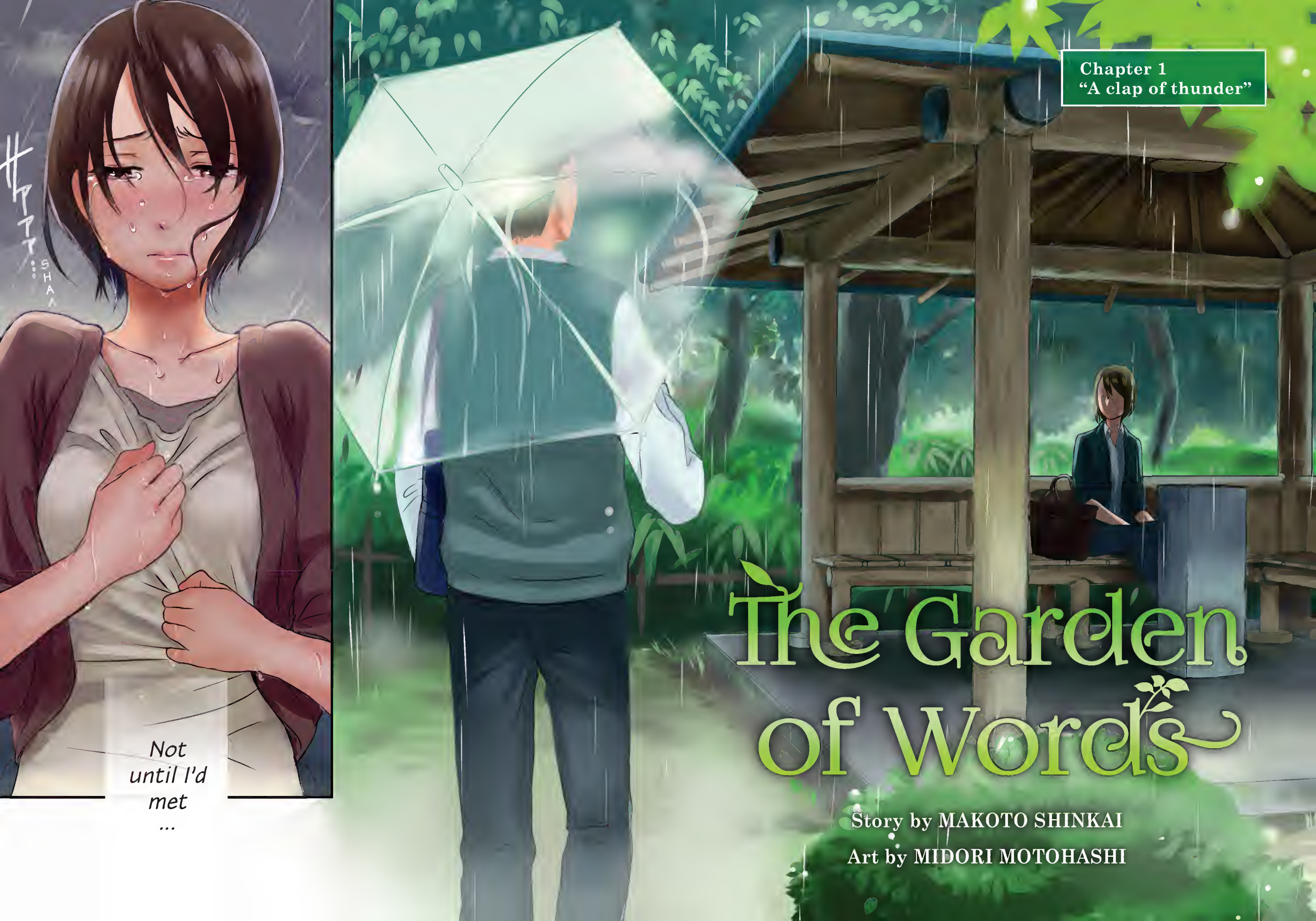
The Garden of Words

Story by MAKOTO SHINKAI

Art by MIDORI MOTOHASHI

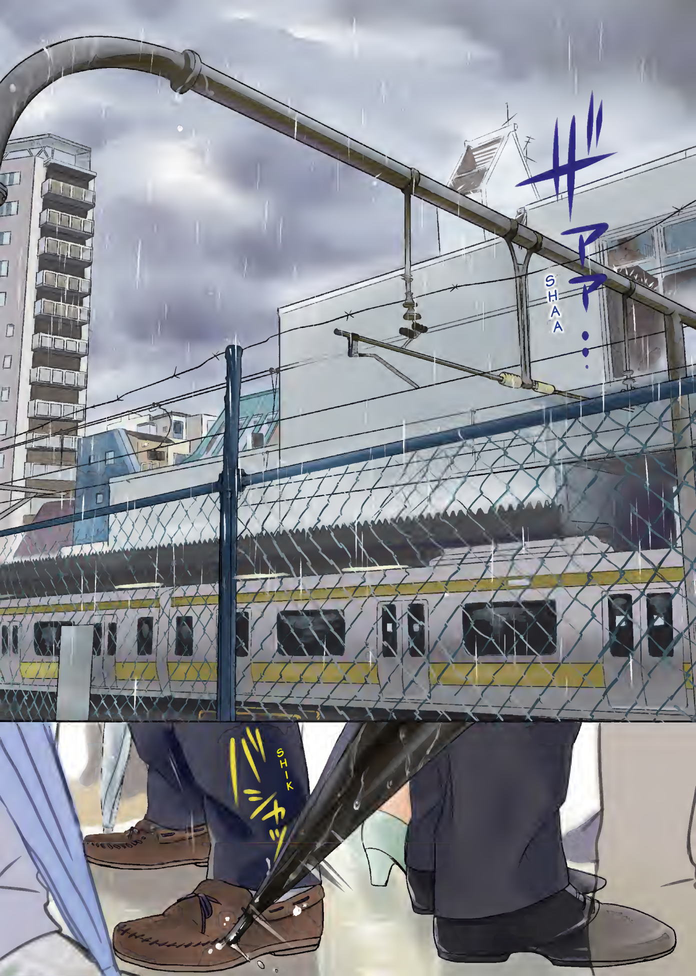

SHAA
I didn't know
that I had such emotions within me.

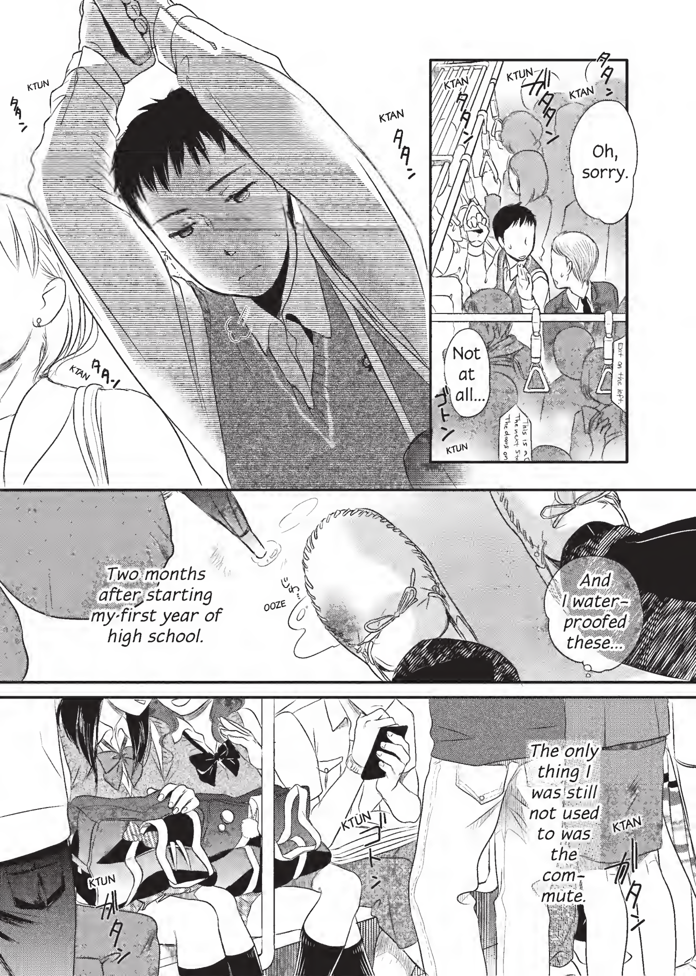

ザァァァ…
SHAA
Not until I'd met …

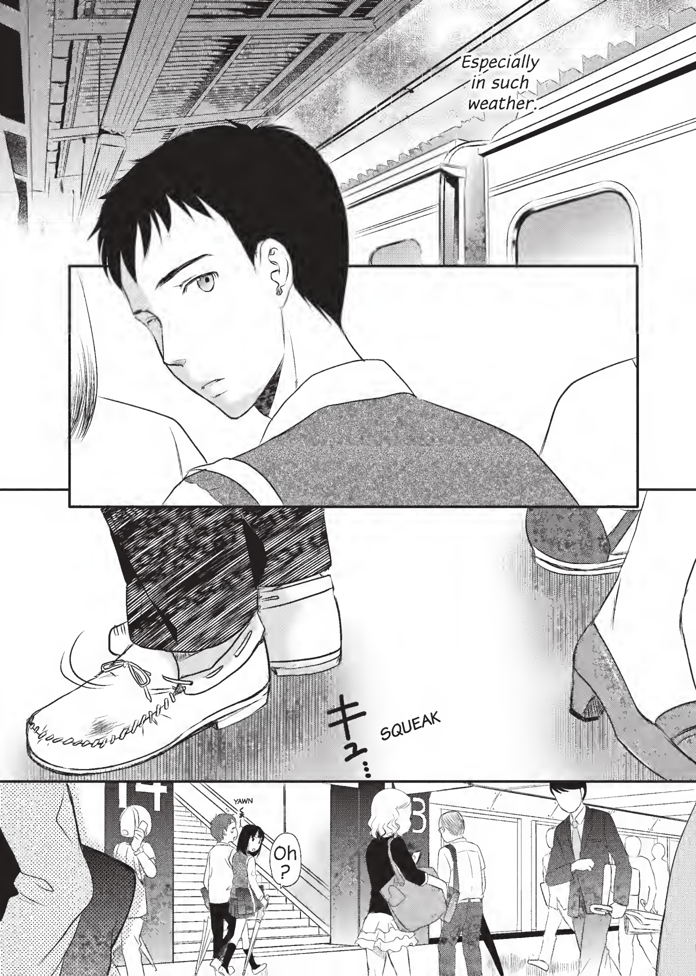
Chapter 1
"A clap of thunder"

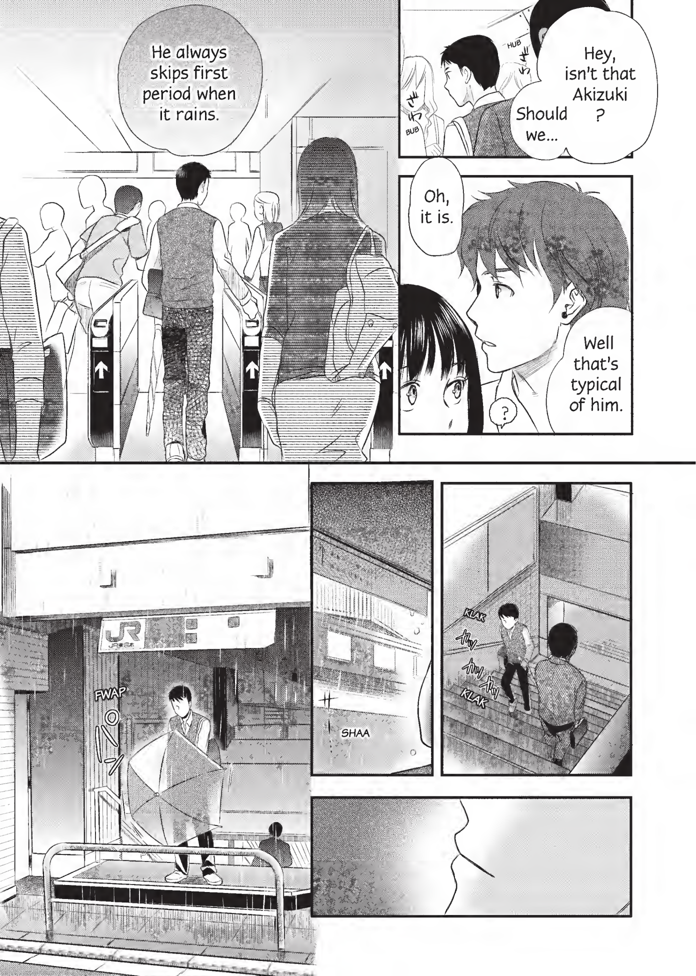
The Garden of Words

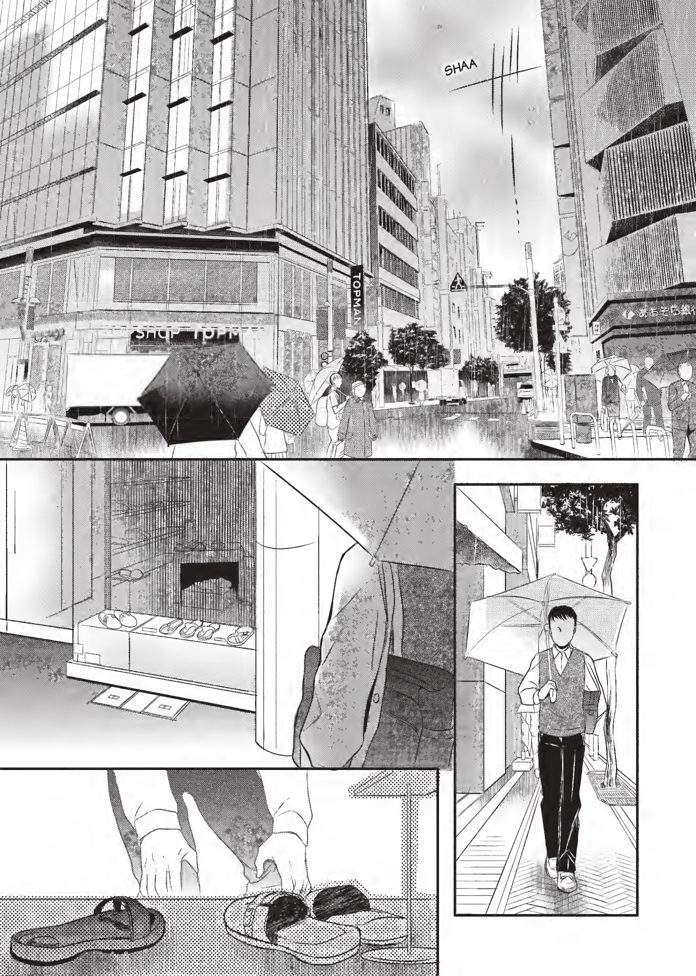
Story by MAKOTO SHINKAI
Art by MIDORI MOTOHASHI

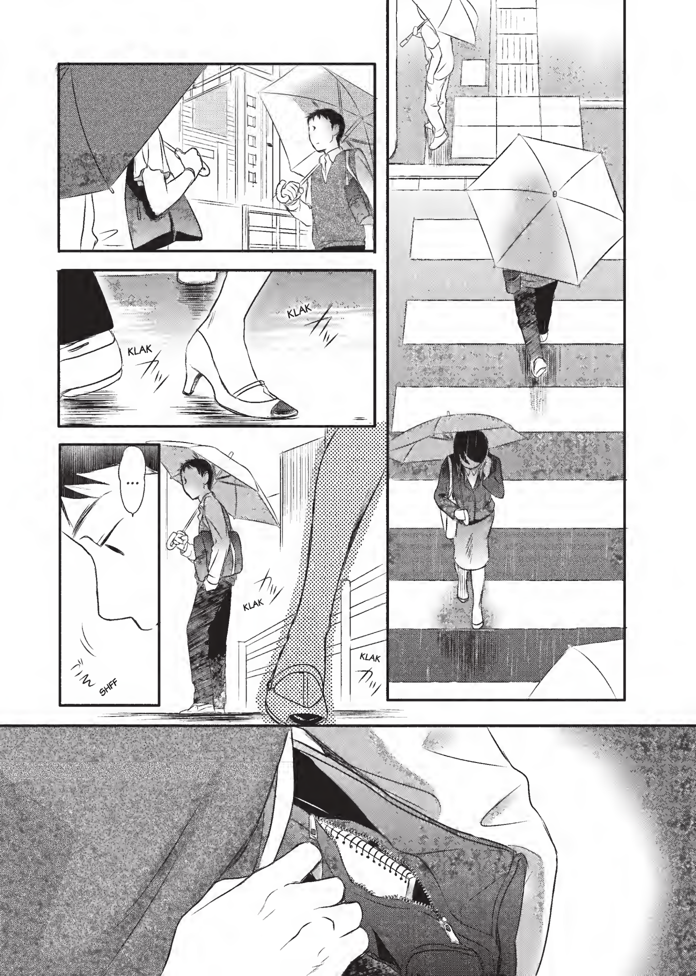

ザァ…
SHAA
バシッ
SHIK

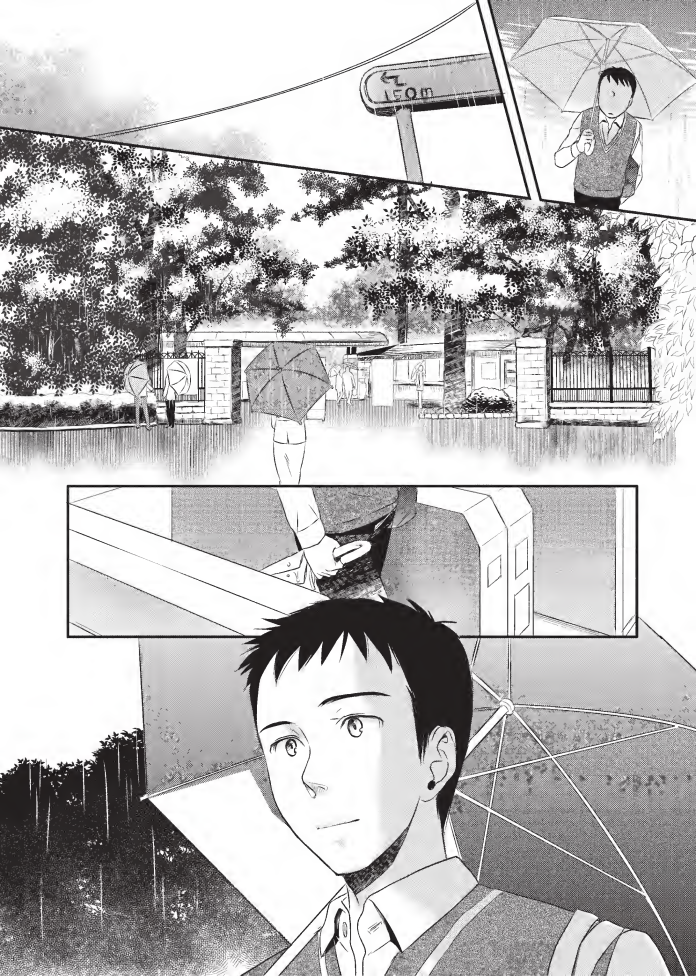

KTUN
ガタン
KTAN
タタン
KTAN
タタン
Oh, sorry.
Exit on the left.
This is a
The next St
The doors on
Not at all...
ゴトン
KTUN
KTAN
タタン
KTUN
タタン
KTAN
タタン
And I waterproofed these...
OOZE
じわ...
Two months after starting my first year of high school.
The only thing I was still not used to was the commute.
KTAN
ガタン
KTUN
ゴトン
KTUN
ガタン

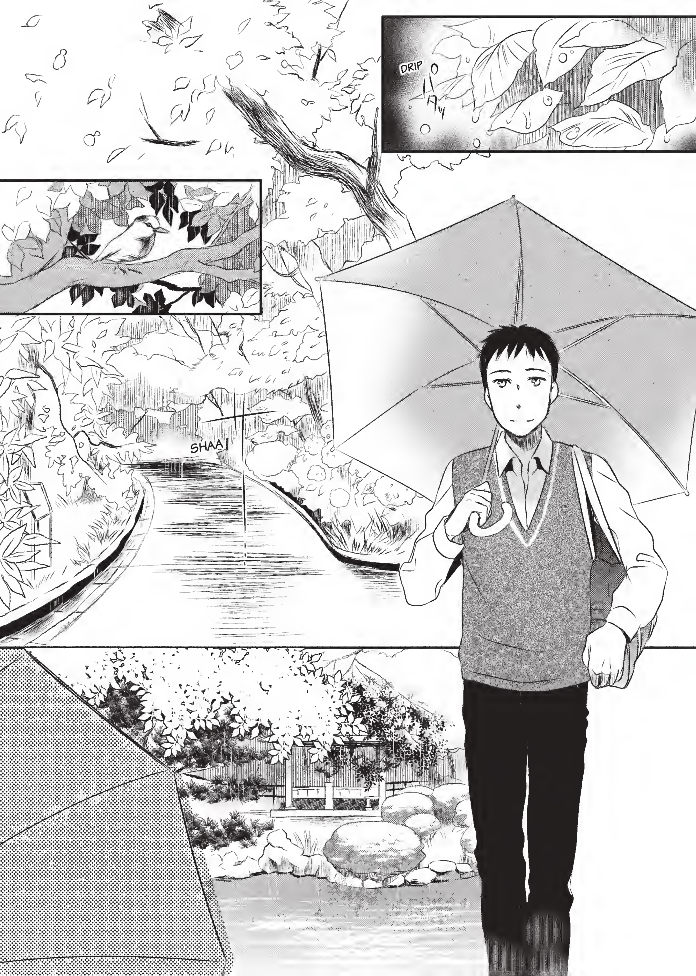

Especially in such weather.
キュ…
SQUEAK
Oh?
YAWN
くあー

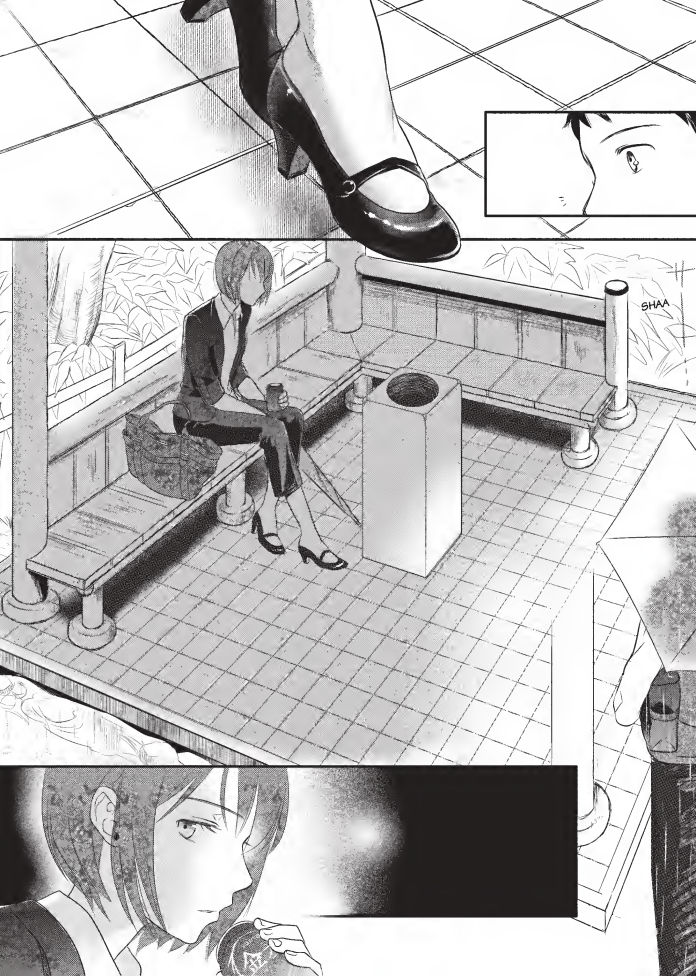

HUB
BUB
Hey, isn't that Akizuki ?
Should we...
Oh, it is.
Well that's typical of him.
?
He always skips first period when it rains.
KLAK
KLAK
SHAA
FWAP

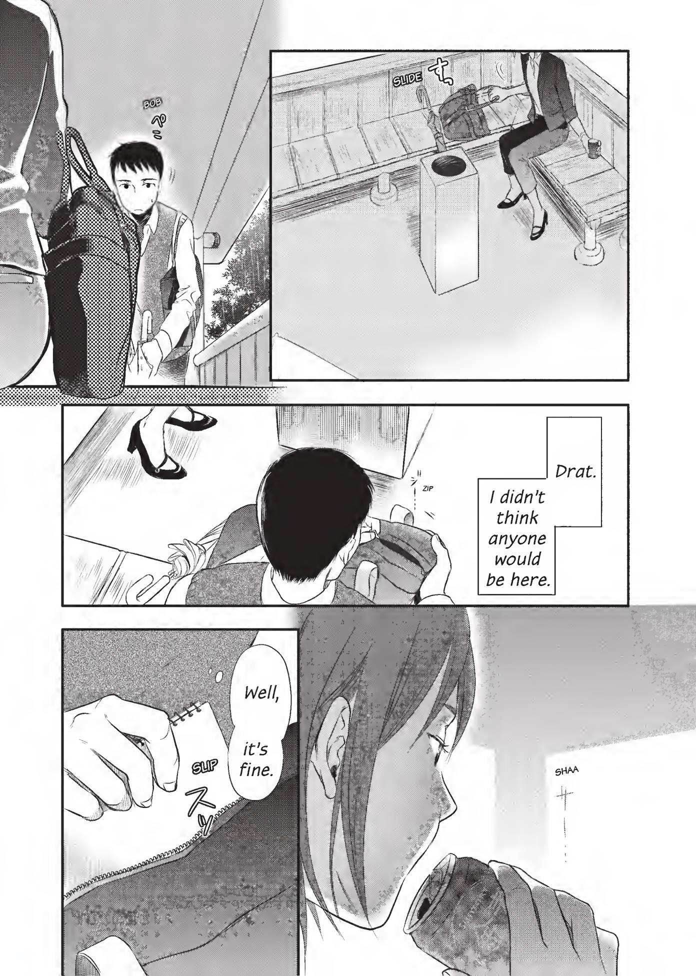

SHAA
TOPMAN
SHOP TOPM

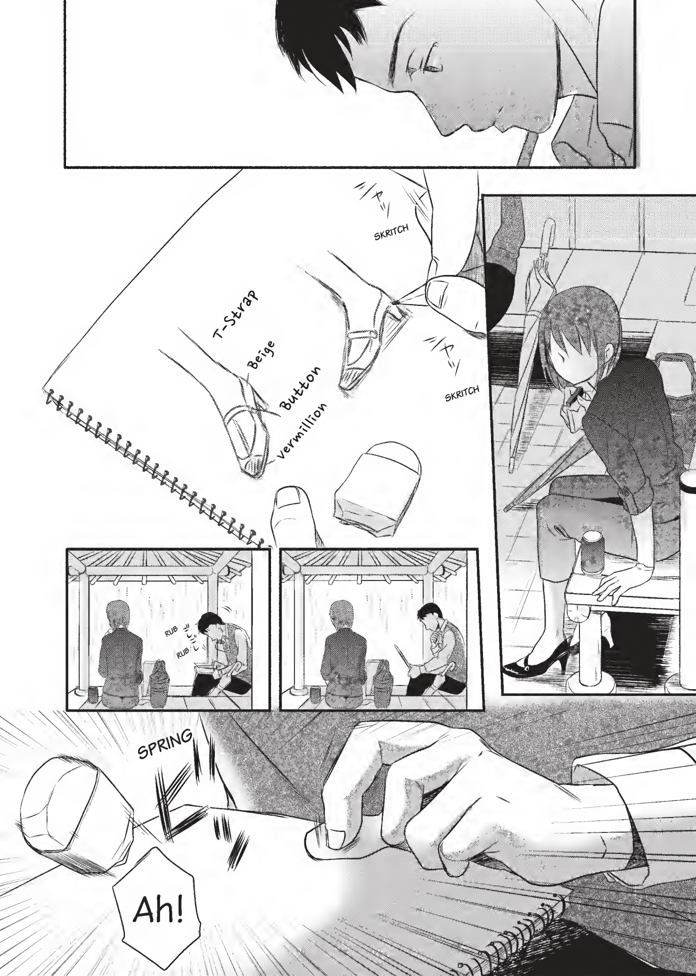

KLAK
KLAK
...
SHFF
KLAK
KLAK

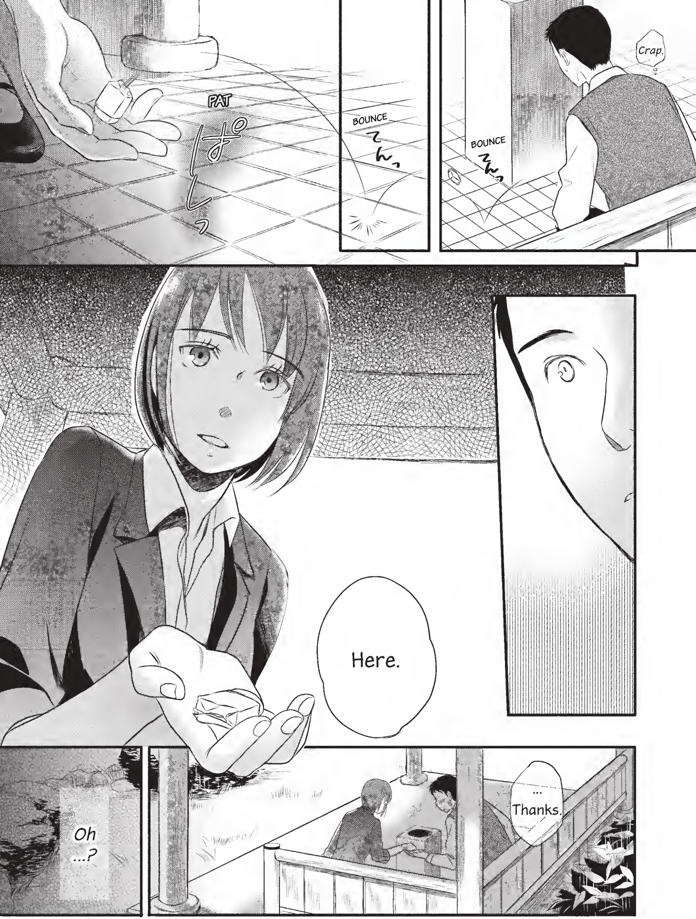

150m

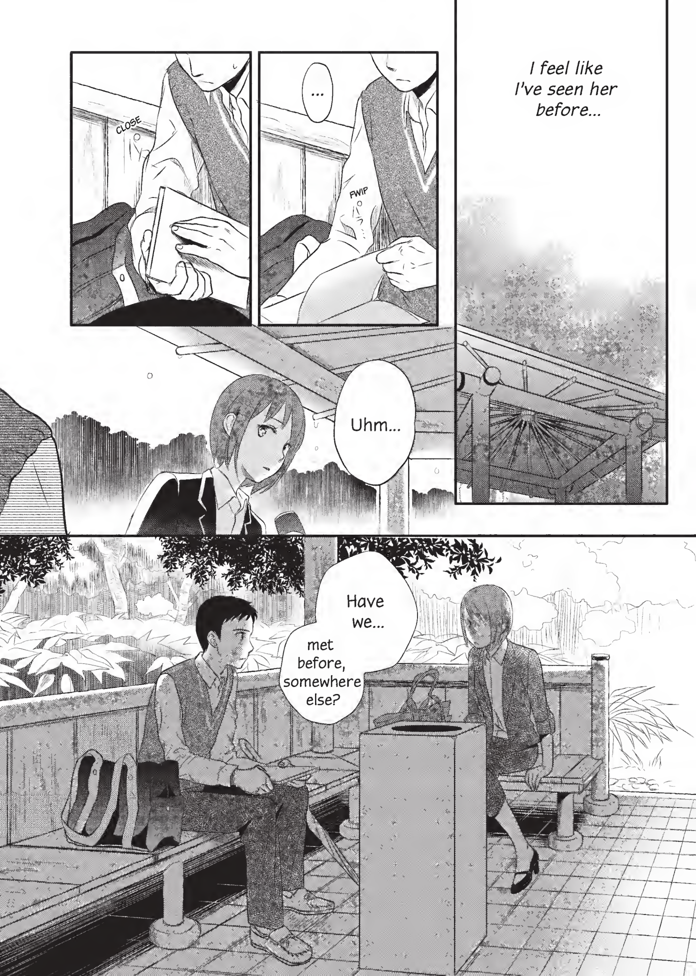

DRIP
パタッ
SHAA

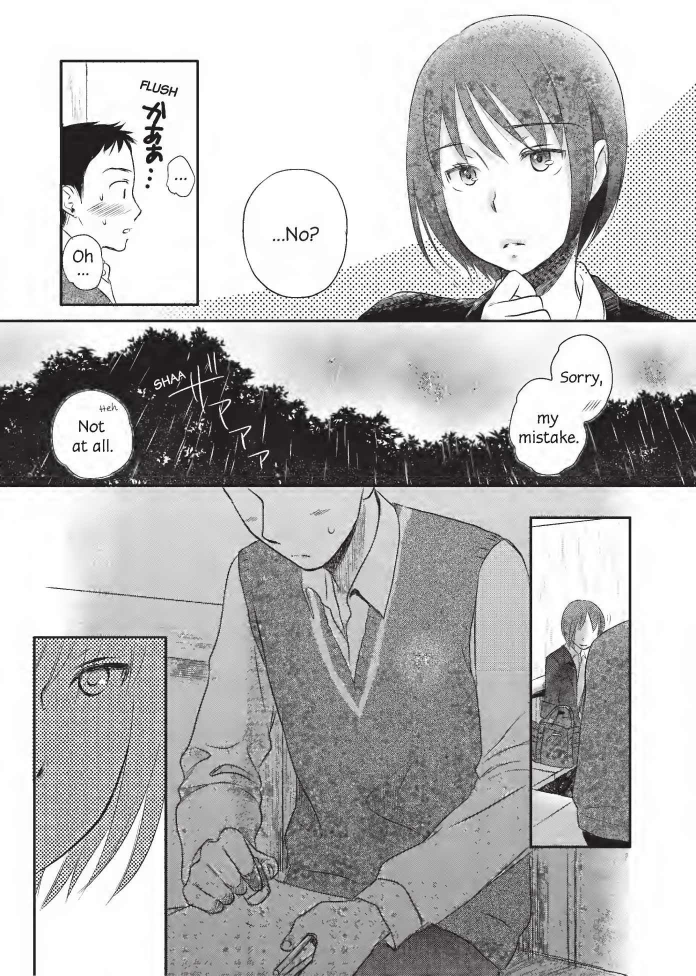

SHAA

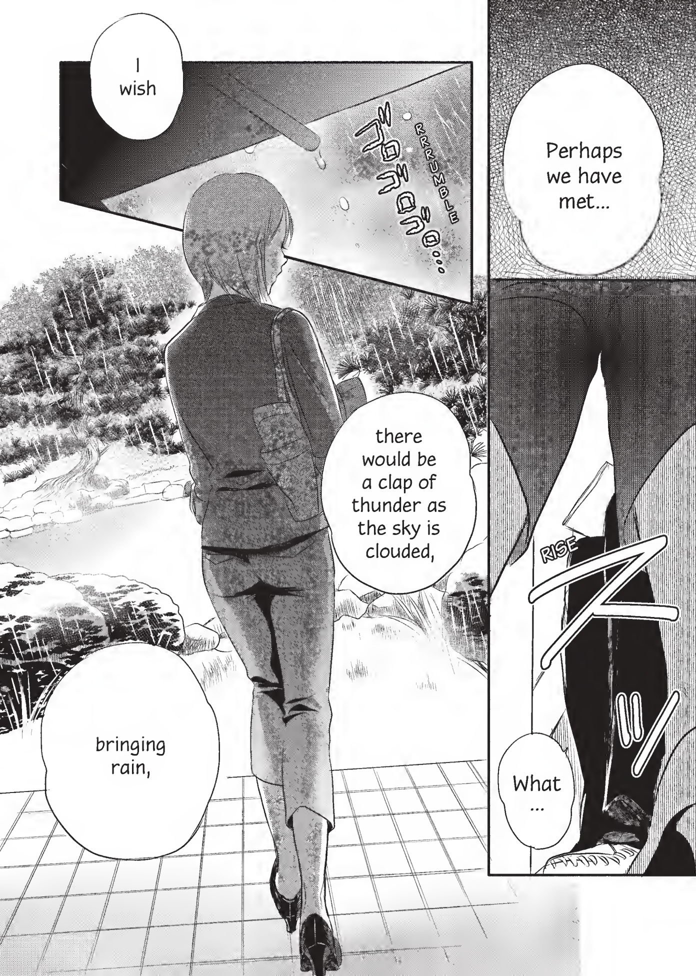

SLIDE
すっ
BOB
ぺこ
ZIP
Drat.
I didn't think anyone would be here.
SHAA
SLIP
スッ
Well,
it's fine.

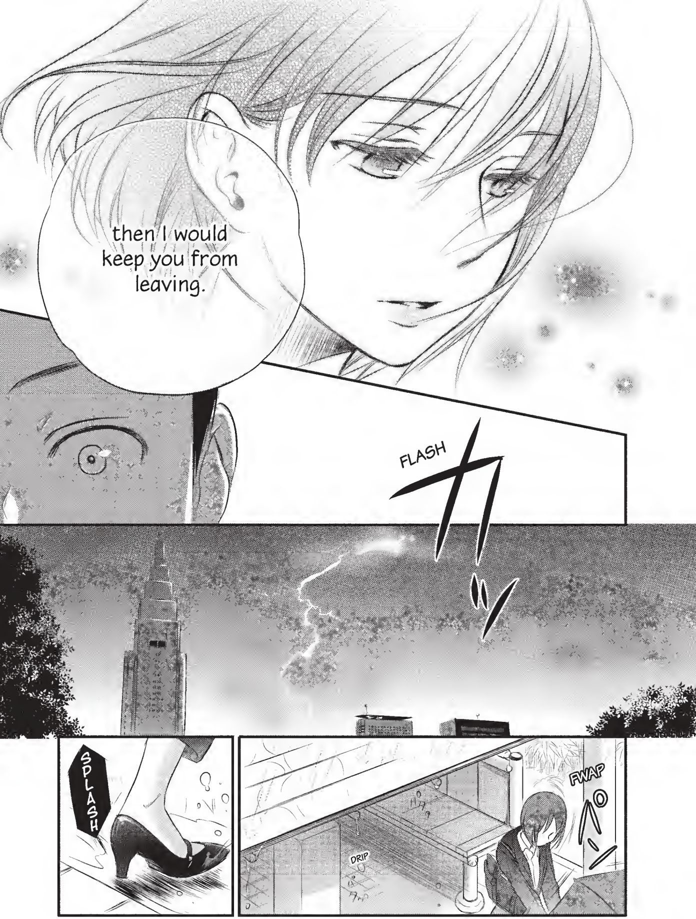

シャッ
SKRITCH
T-Strap
Beige
Button
Vermillion
シャッ
SKRITCH
RUB
RUB
SPRING
Ah!

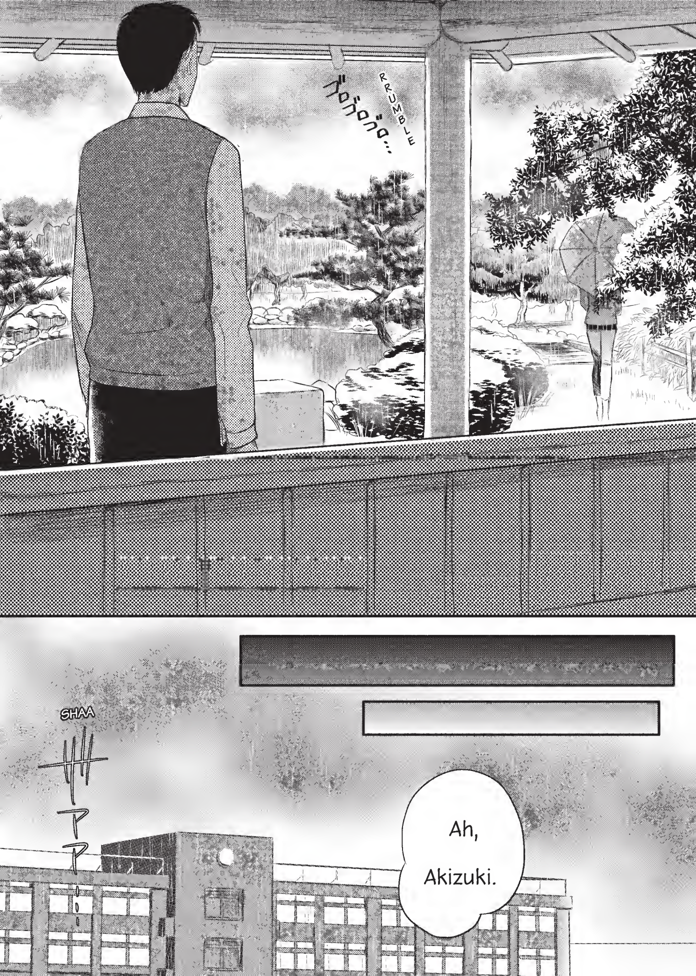

Crap.
BOUNCE
てんっ
BOUNCE
てんっ
PAT
ぽしっ
Here.
... Thanks.
Oh ...?

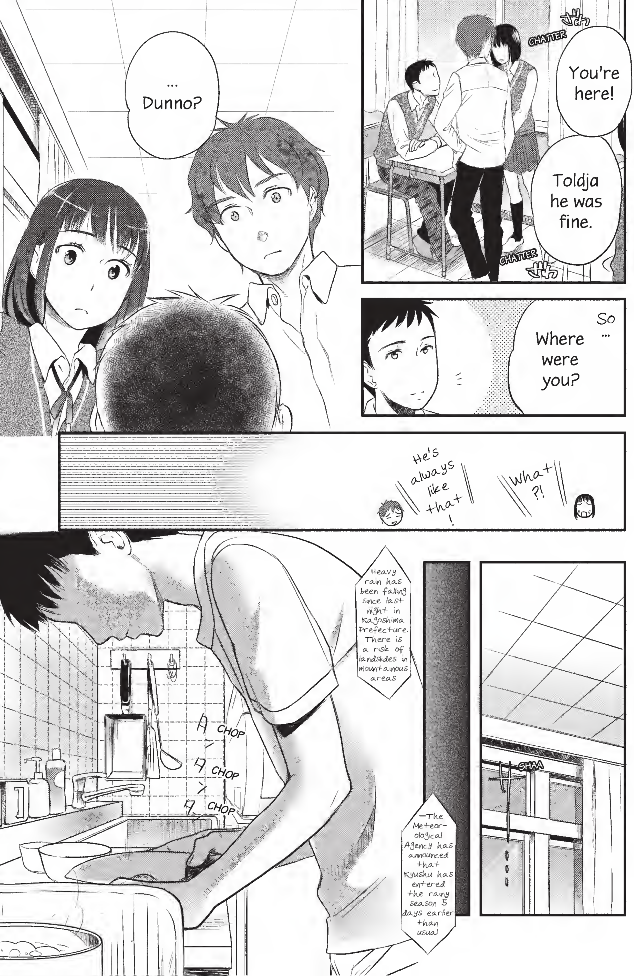

I feel like I've seen her before...
...
FWIP
パラ…
CLOSE
Uhm...
Have we...
met before, somewhere else?

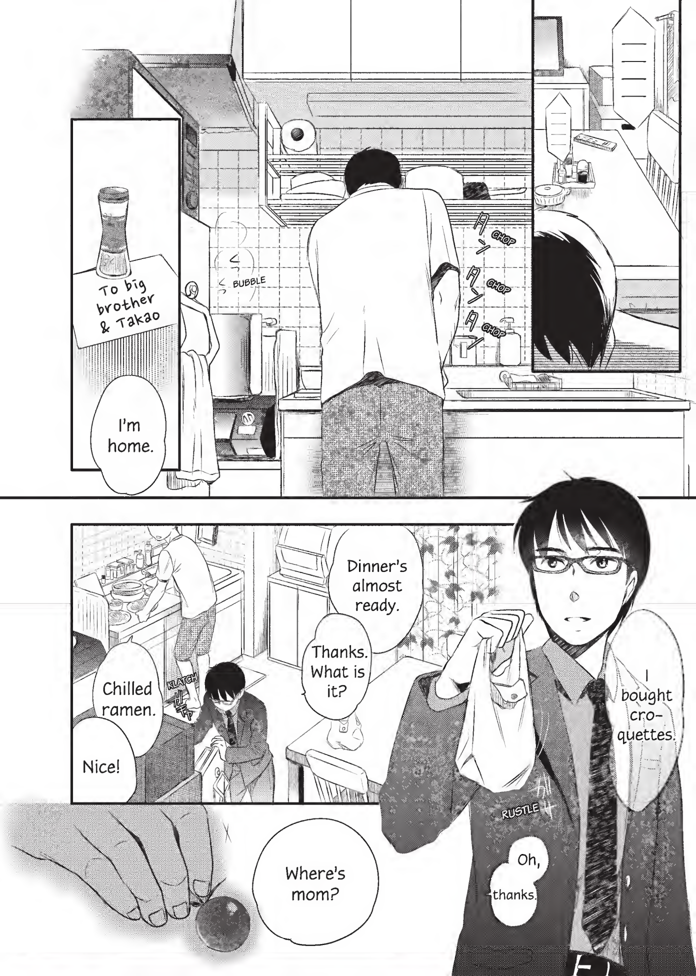

...No?
FLUSH
かあ…
...
Oh ...
Sorry, my mistake.
SHAA
ザアァァ
Heh
Not at all.

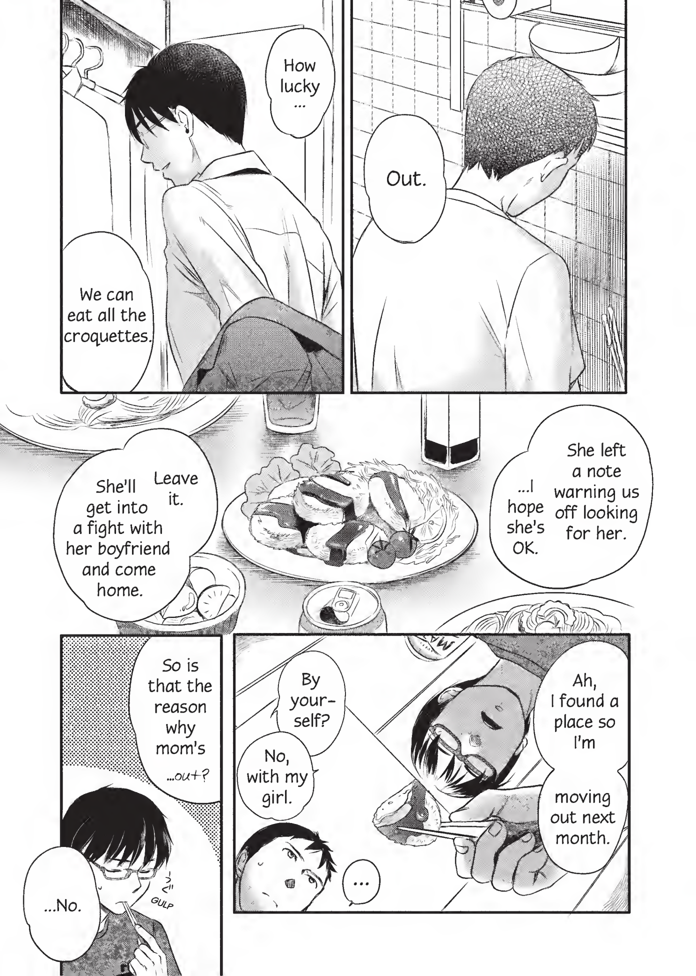

Perhaps we have met...
RISE
What ...
I wish
ゴロゴロゴロ…
RRRUMBLE
there would be a clap of thunder as the sky is clouded,
bringing rain,

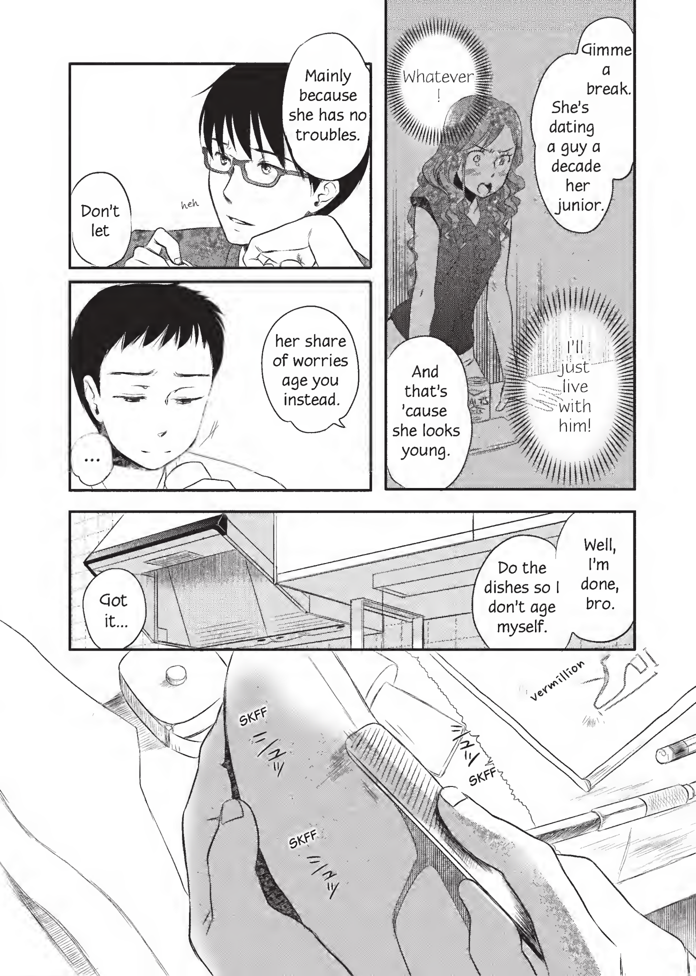

then I would keep you from leaving.
FLASH
FWAP
DRIP
SPLASH

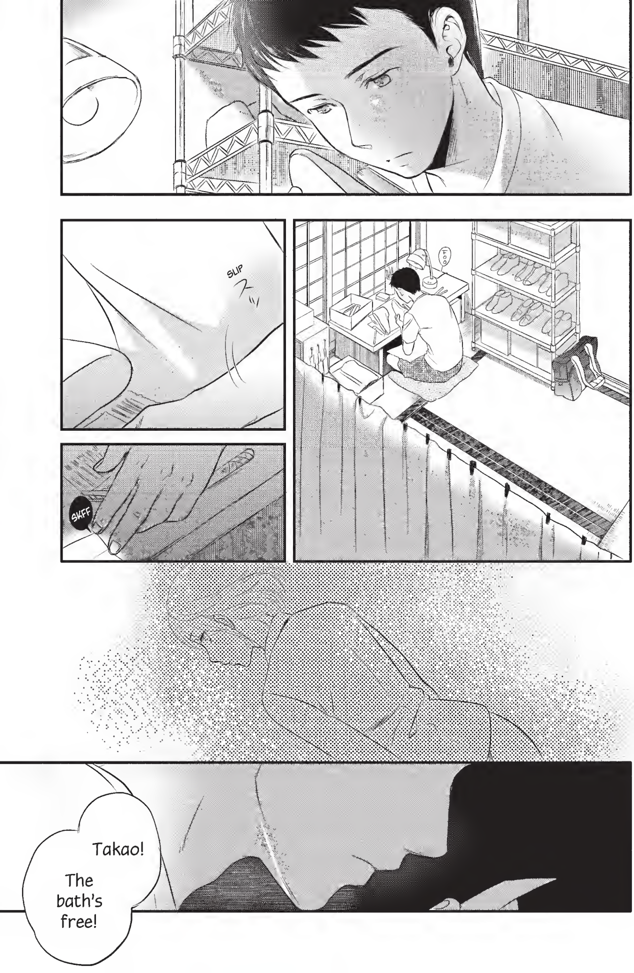

ゴロゴロゴロ…
RRUMBLE
SHAA
ザアア…
Ah, Akizuki.

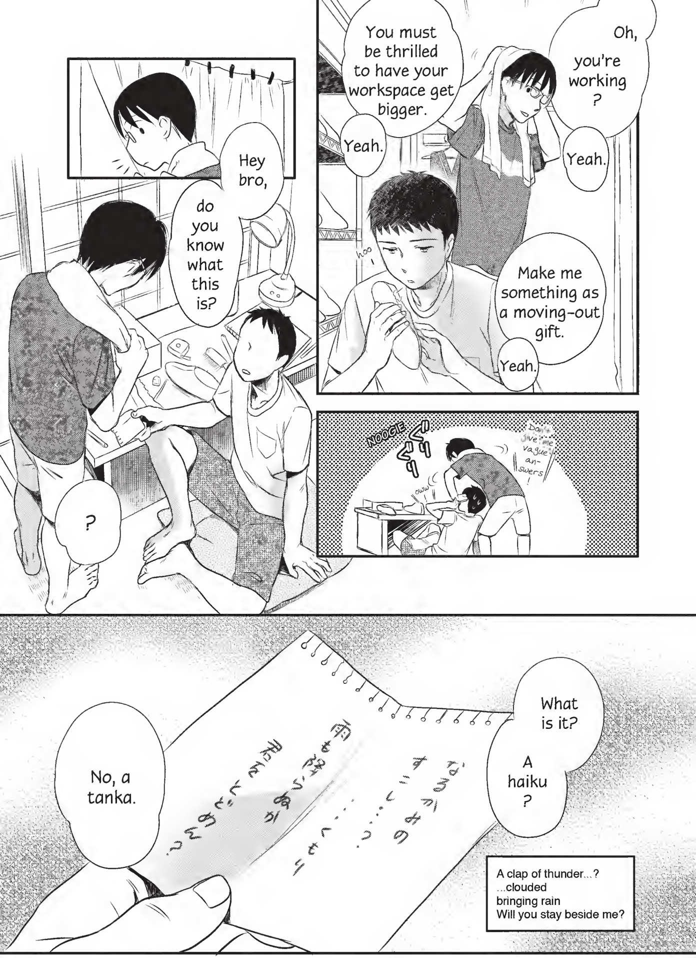

ざわ
CHATTER
You're here!
Toldja he was fine.
CHATTER
ざわ
So ...
Where were you?
... Dunno?
What?!
He's always like that!
SHAA
Heavy rain has been falling since last night in Kagoshima Prefecture. There is a risk of landslides in mountainous areas
—The Meteorological Agency has announced that Kyushu has entered the rainy season 5 days earlier than usual
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP

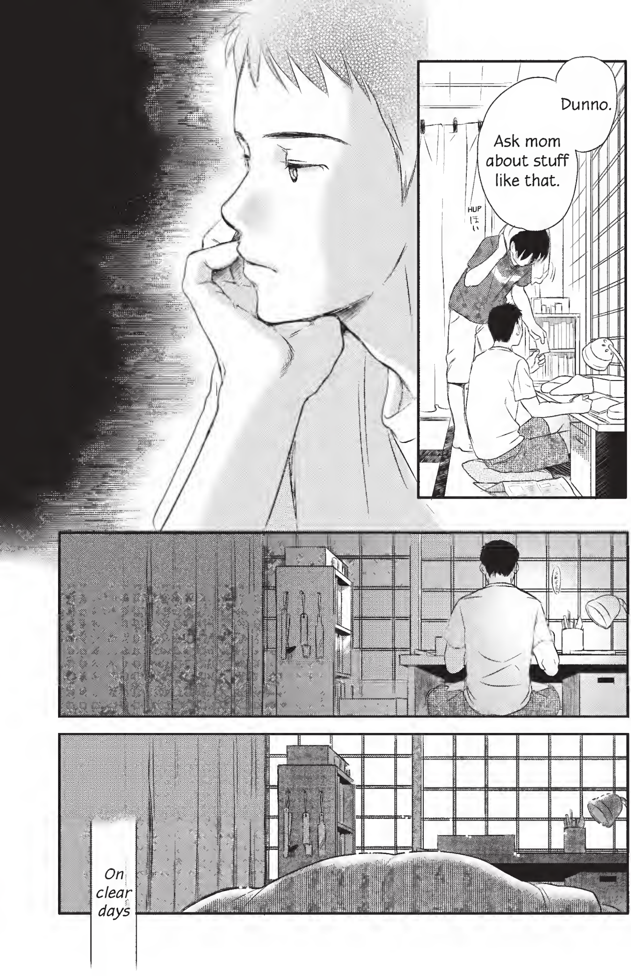

CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
BUBBLE
To big brother & Takao
I'm home.
Dinner's almost ready.
Thanks. What is it?
Chilled ramen.
KLATCH
Nice!
I bought croquettes.
RUSTLE
Oh, thanks.
Where's mom?

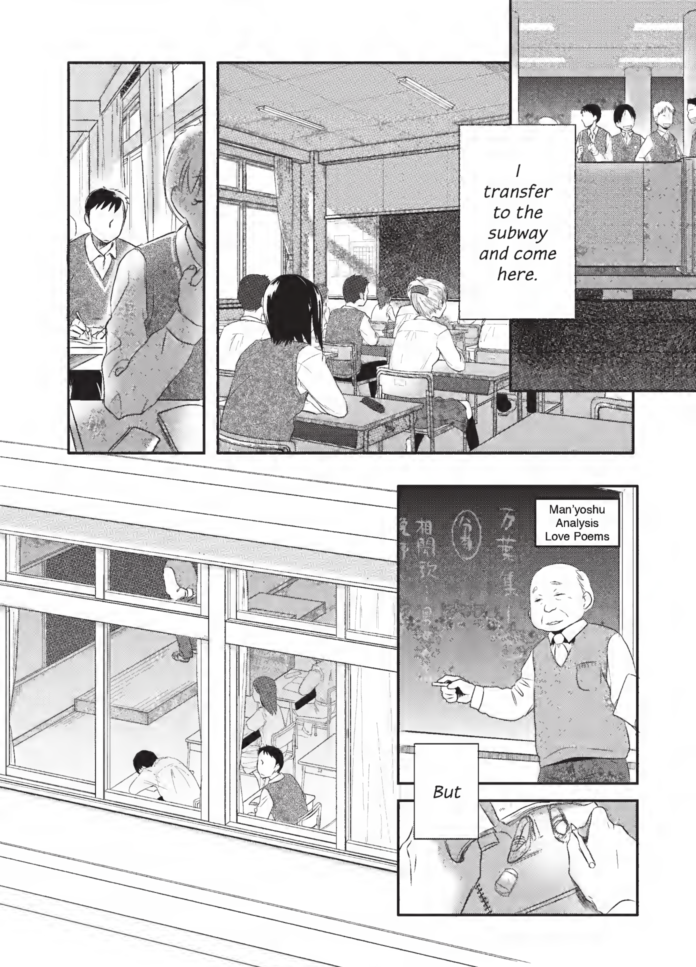

Out.
How lucky ...
We can eat all the croquettes.
She left a note warning us off looking for her.
...I hope she's OK.
Leave it.
She'll get into a fight with her boyfriend and come home.
Ah, I found a place so I'm
moving out next month.
By yourself?
No, with my girl.
...
So is that the reason why mom's ...out?
GULP
...No.

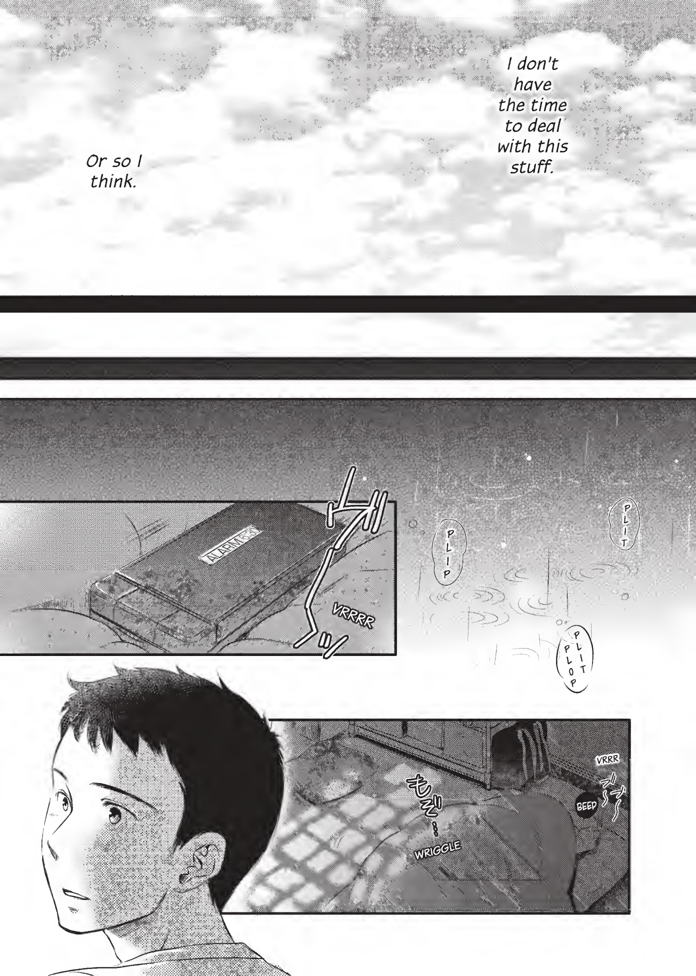

Gimme a break. She's dating a guy a decade her junior.
Whatever!
And that's 'cause she looks young.
I'll just live with him!
Mainly because she has no troubles.
heh
Don't let
her share of worries age you instead.
...
Well, I'm done, bro.
Do the dishes so I don't age myself.
Got it...
vermillion
SKFF
SKFF
SKFF

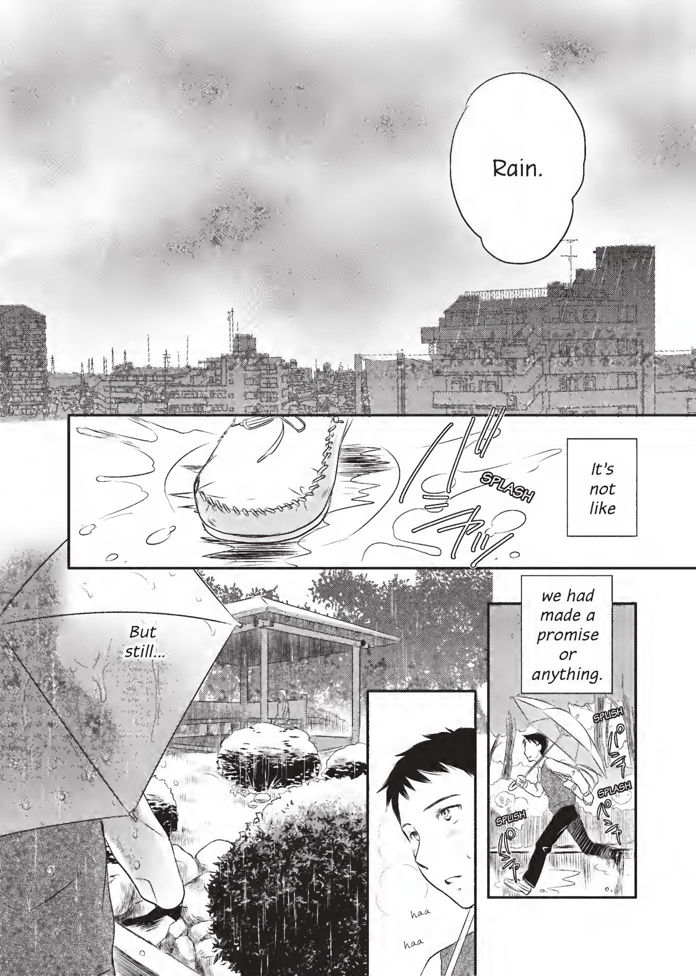

FOO
SLIP
スッ
SKFF
Takao! The bath's free!

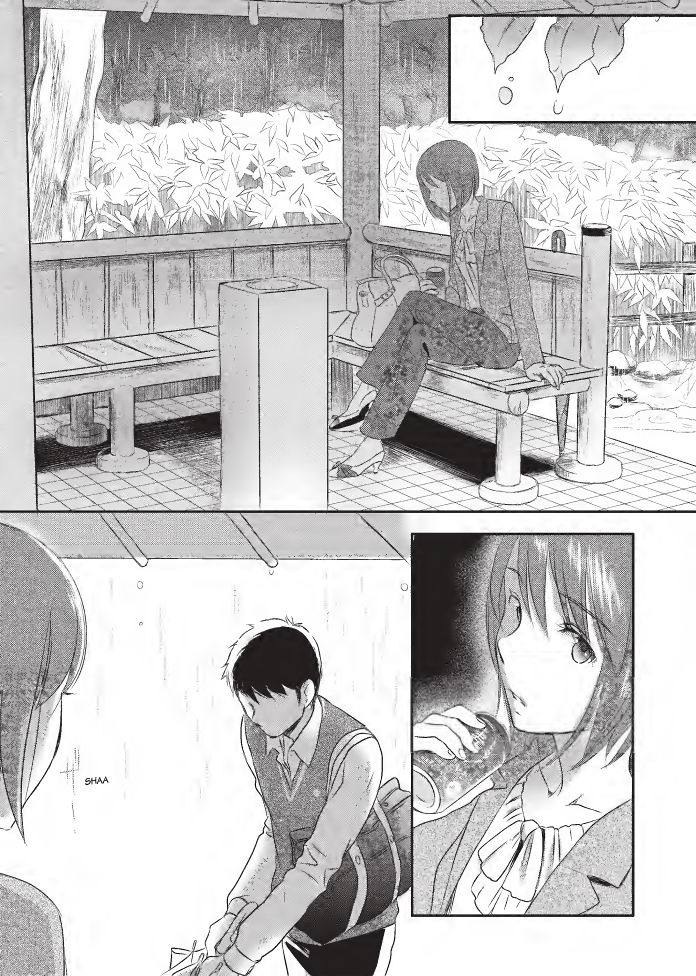

Oh, you're working?
Yeah.
You must be thrilled to have your workspace get bigger.
Yeah.
hoo
Make me something as a moving-out gift.
Yeah.
NOOGIE
ぐりぐり
Don't give me vague answers!
oww
Hey bro, do you know what this is?
?
What is it? A haiku?
No, a tanka.
なるかみの
すこし……?
くもり
雨も降らぬか
君をとどめむ
A clap of thunder...?
...clouded
bringing rain
Will you stay beside me?

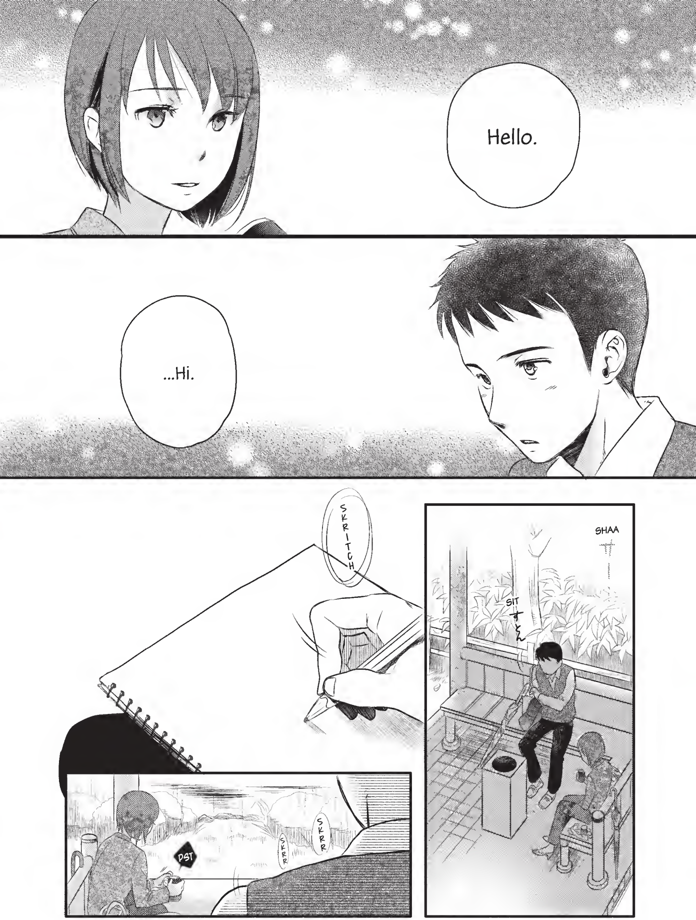

Dunno.
Ask mom about stuff like that.
HUP
ほい
skff
On clear days

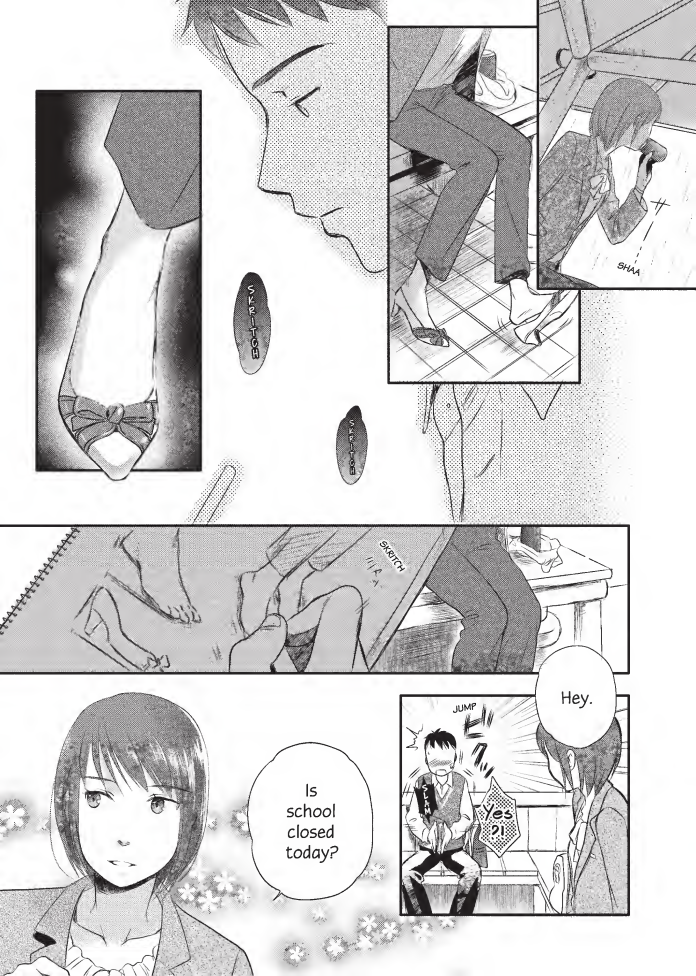

I transfer to the subway and come here.
万葉集
相聞歌
Man'yoshu Analysis Love Poems
But

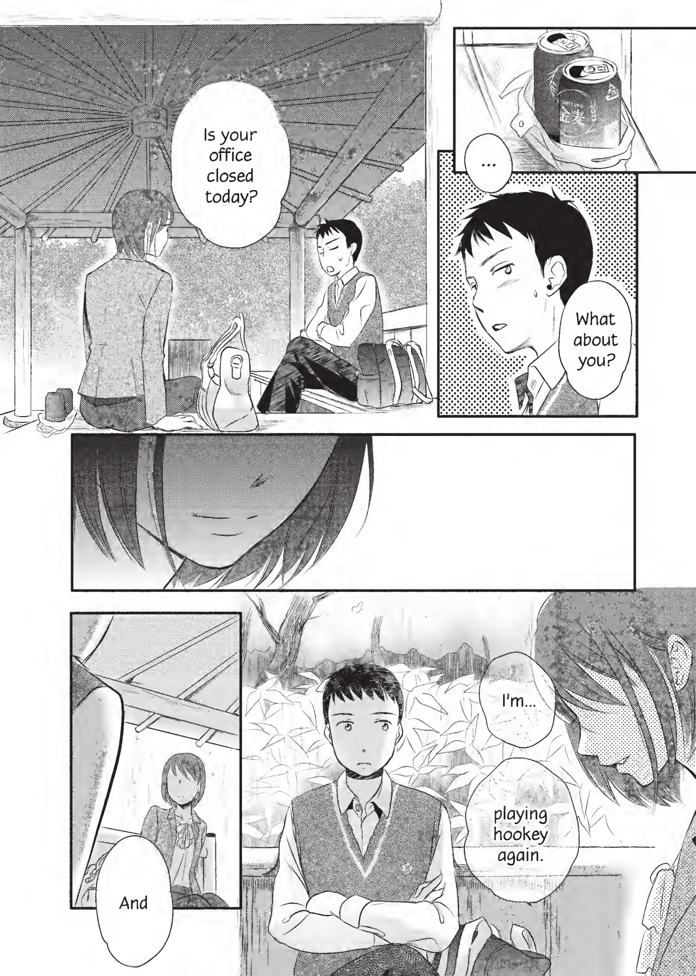

I don't have the time to deal with this stuff.
Or so I think.
PLIT
PLIP
VRRRR
PLIT PLOP
VRRR
BEEP
もぞ…
WRIGGLE

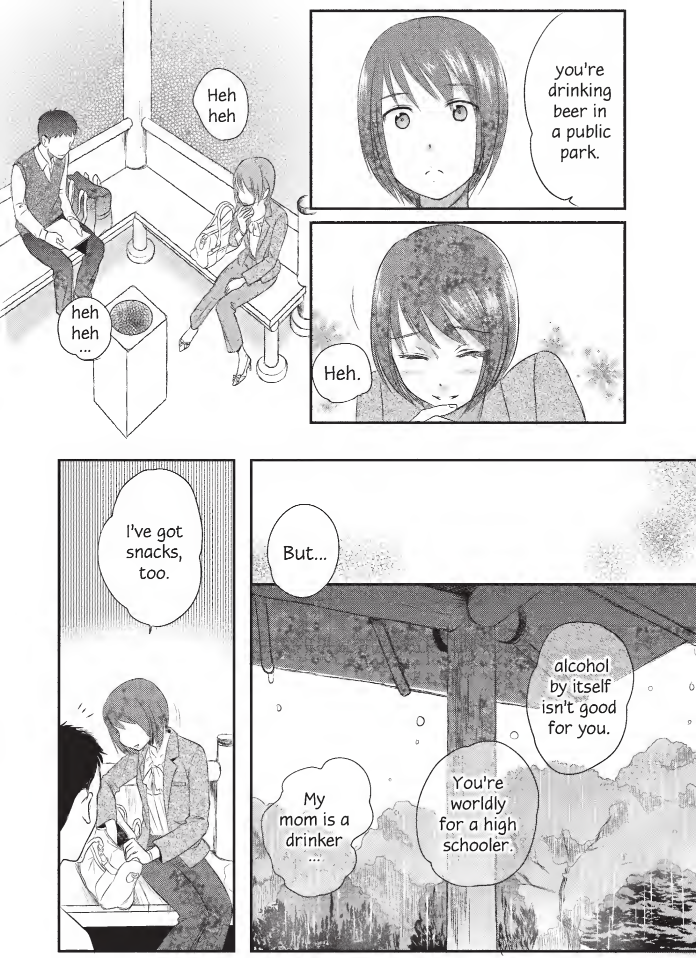

Rain.
SPLASH
It's not like
we had made a promise or anything.
SPLISH
SPLASH
SPLISH
haa
haa
But still...

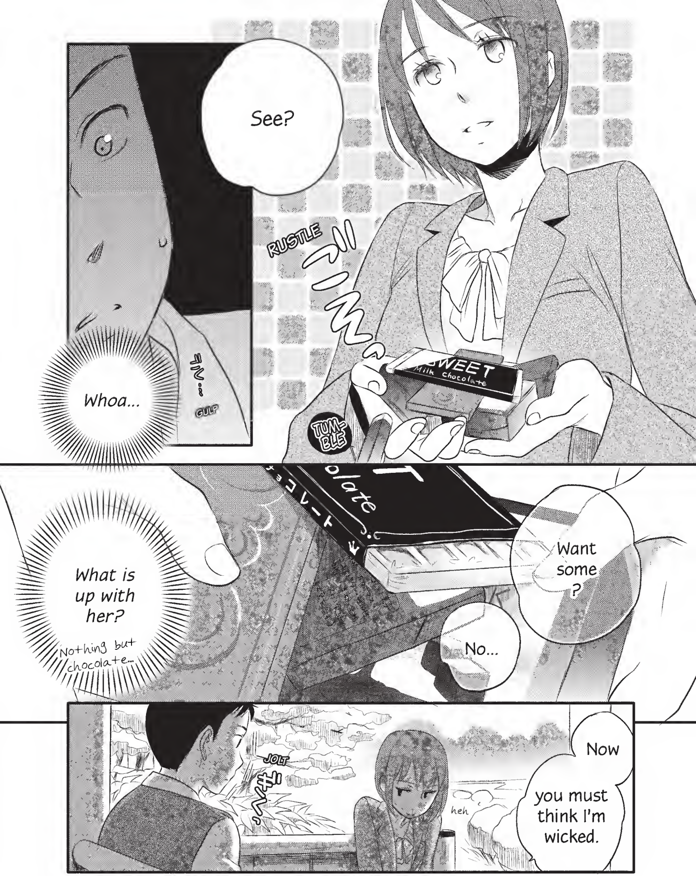

SHAA

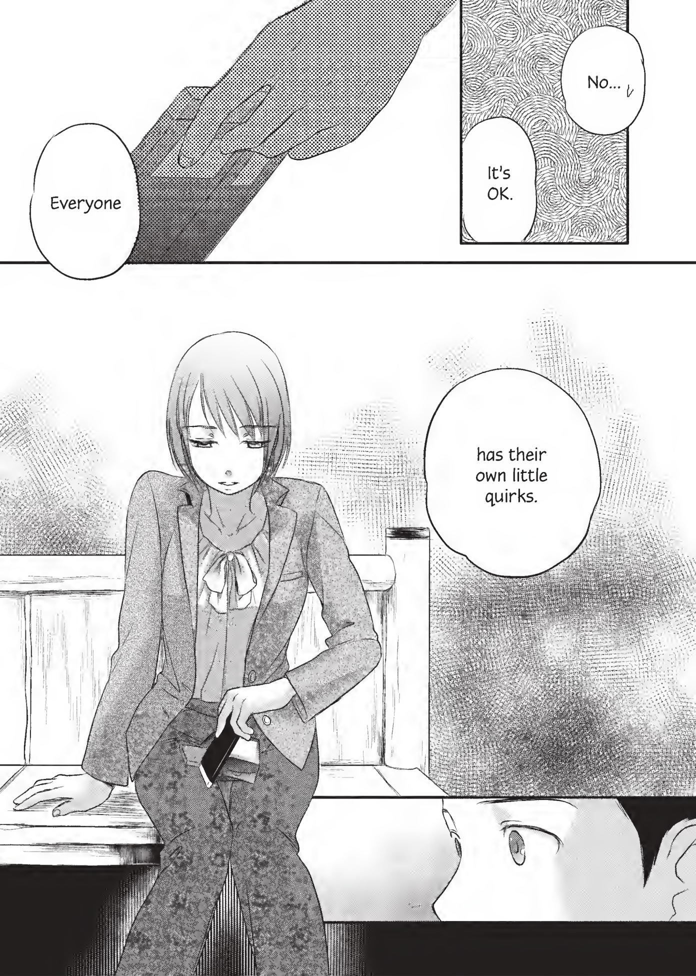

Hello.
...Hi.
SHAA
SIT すとん
SKRITCH
SKRR
SKRR
PST

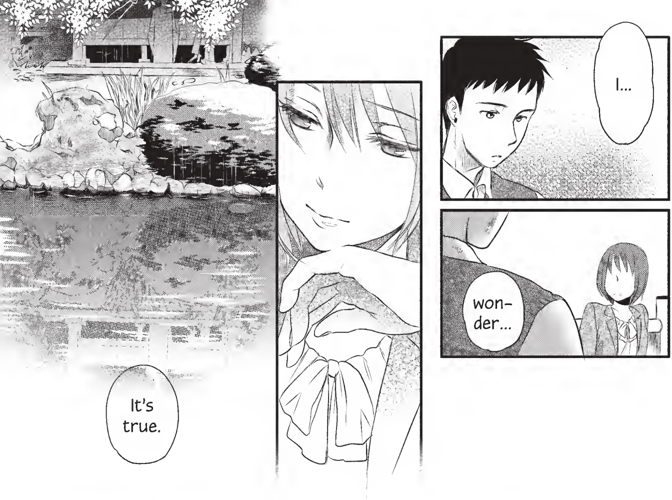

SHAA
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
Hey.
JUMP
SLAM
Yes?!
Is school closed today?

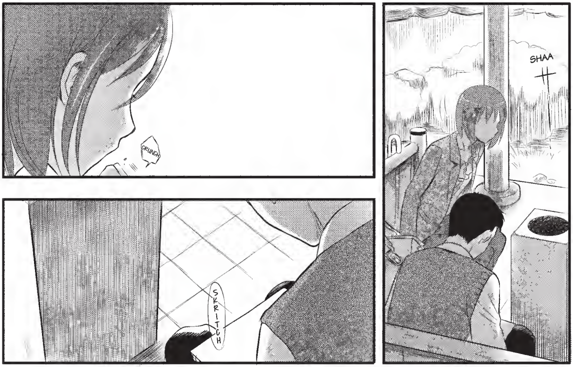

Is your office closed today?
...
What about you?
I'm...
playing hookey again.
And

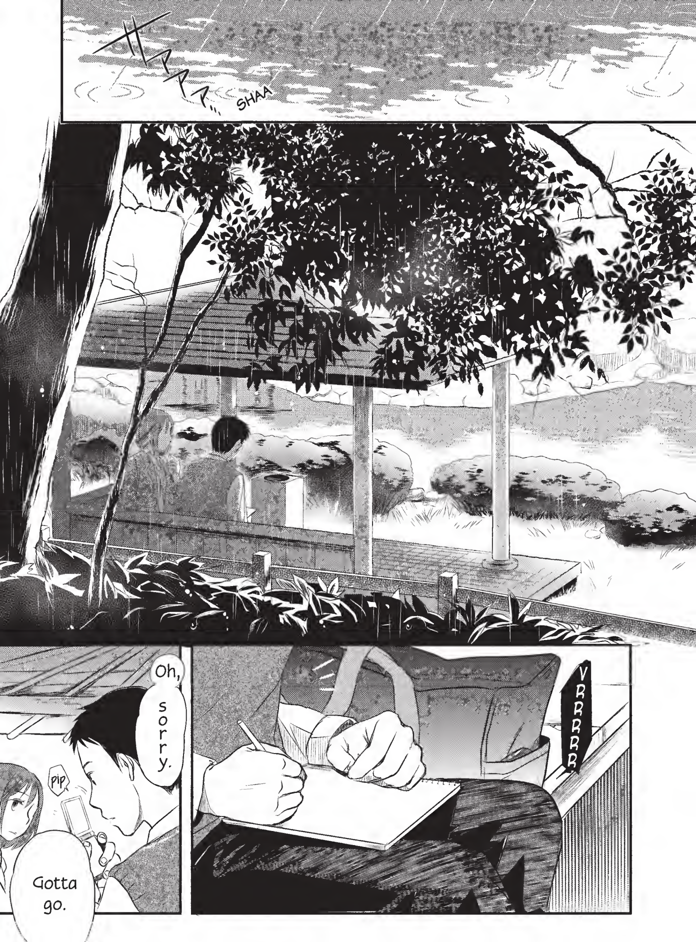

you're drinking beer in a public park.
Heh.
Heh heh
heh heh …
But…
alcohol by itself isn't good for you.
You're worldly for a high schooler.
My mom is a drinker …
I've got snacks, too.

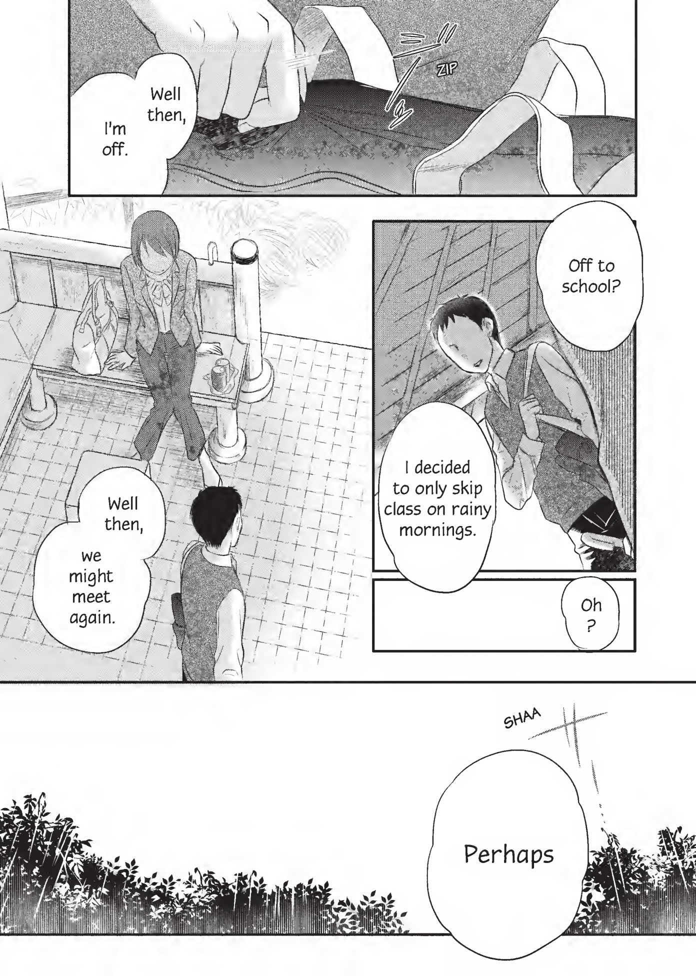

See?
RUSTLE
SWEET Milk Chocolate
TUMBLE
Whoa...
GULP
Want some?
No...
What is up with her?
Nothing but chocolate...
Now you must think I'm wicked.
heh
JOLT

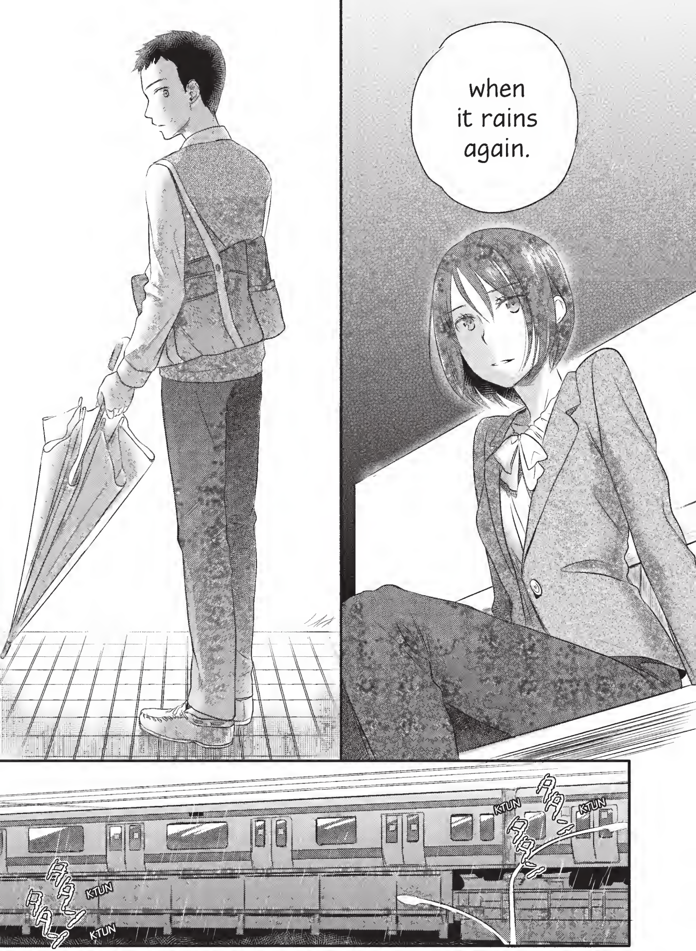

No...
It's OK.
Everyone
has their own little quirks.

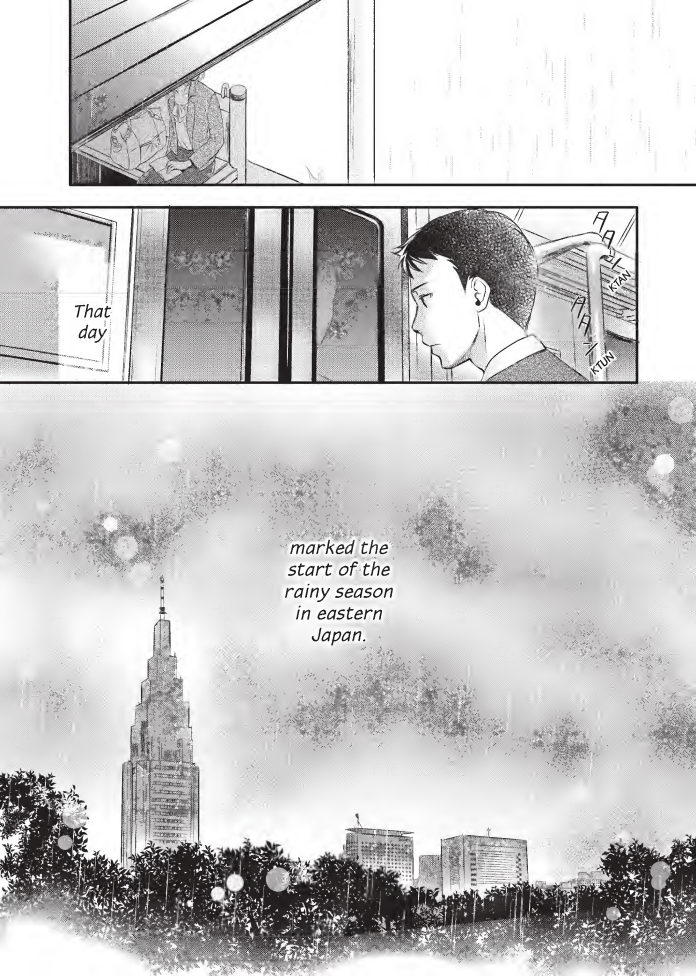

I...
won-der...
It's true.


SHAA
CRUNCH
SKRITCH


ザァァァ...
SHAA
VRRRRR
Oh, sorry.
pip
Gotta go.

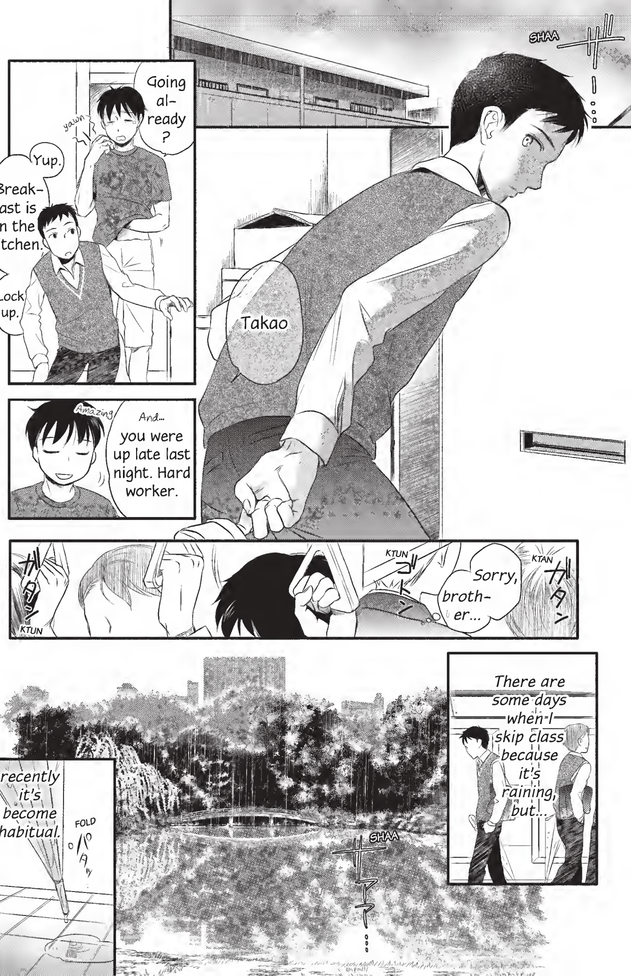

ZIP
Well then, I'm off.
Off to school?
I decided to only skip class on rainy mornings.
Well then, we might meet again.
Oh?
SHAA
Perhaps

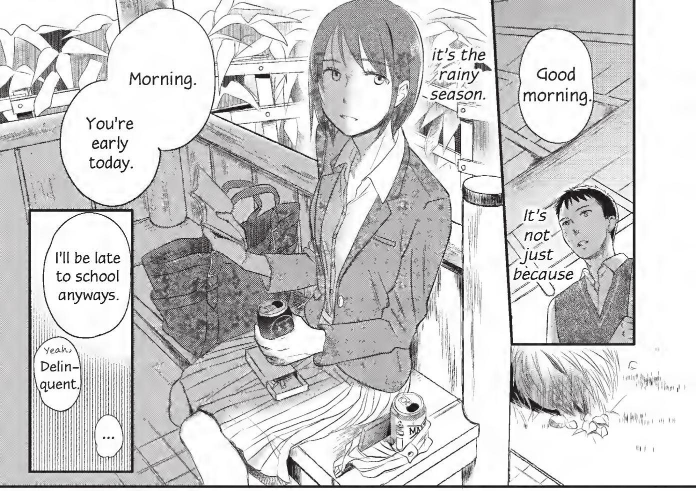

when it rains again.
KTUN
KTUN
KTUN
KTUN

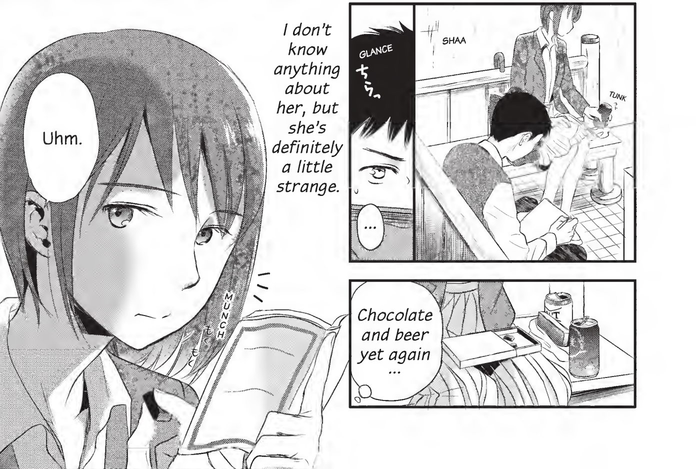

KTAN
KTUN
That day
marked the start of the rainy season in eastern Japan.

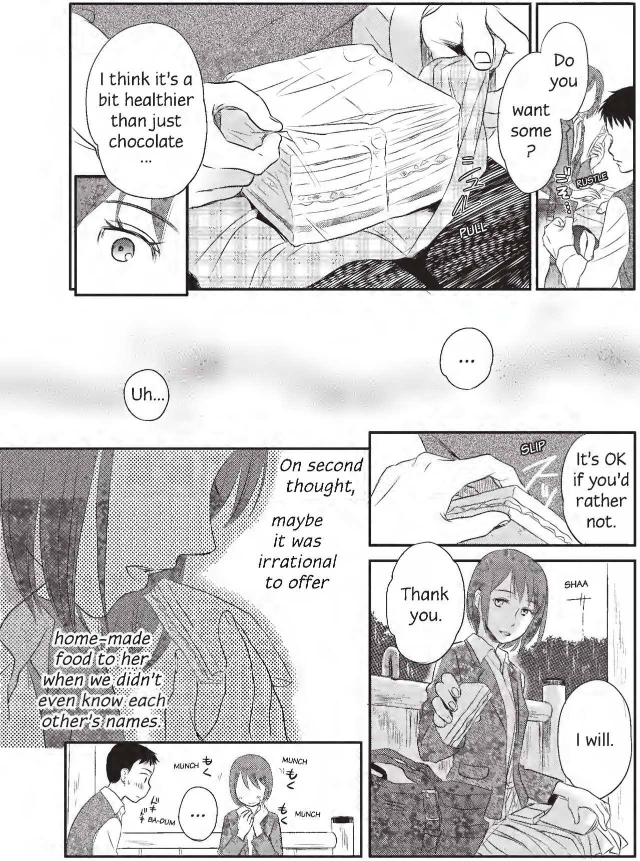
The Garden of Words

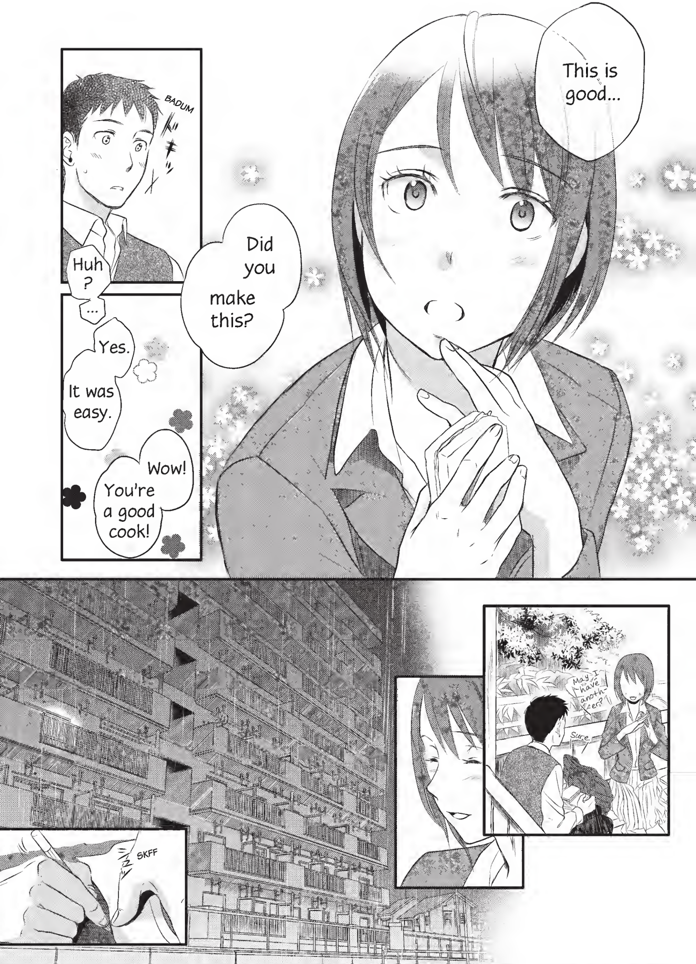
Chapter 2
"When the evistal rains fall"

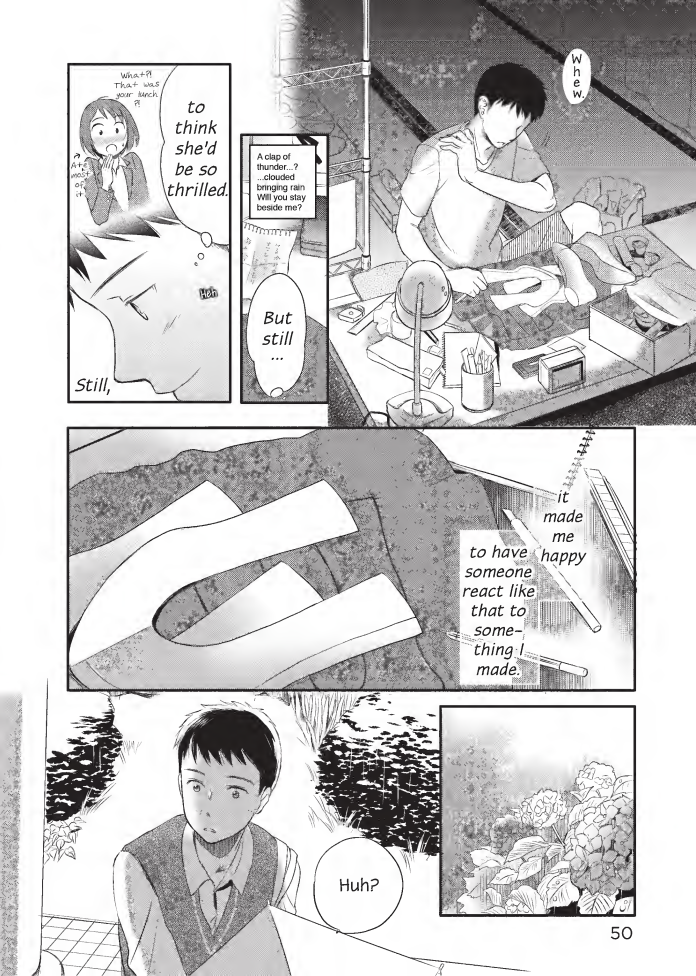

SHAA
Going already?
yawn
Yup.
Breakfast is in the kitchen.
Lock up.
Amazing
And... you were up late last night. Hard worker.
Takao
KTAN
Sorry, brother...
KTUN
KTUN
There are some days when I skip class because it's raining, but...
SHAA
FOLD
recently it's become habitual.

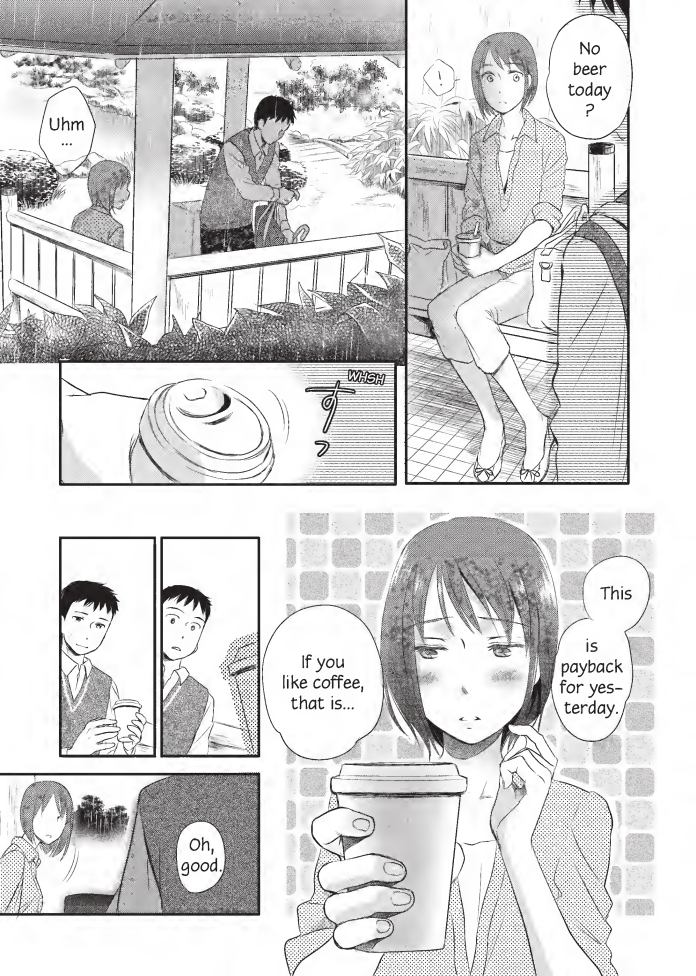

Good morning.
It's not just because
it's the rainy season.
Morning.
You're early today.
I'll be late to school anyways.
Yeah, Delinquent.
...

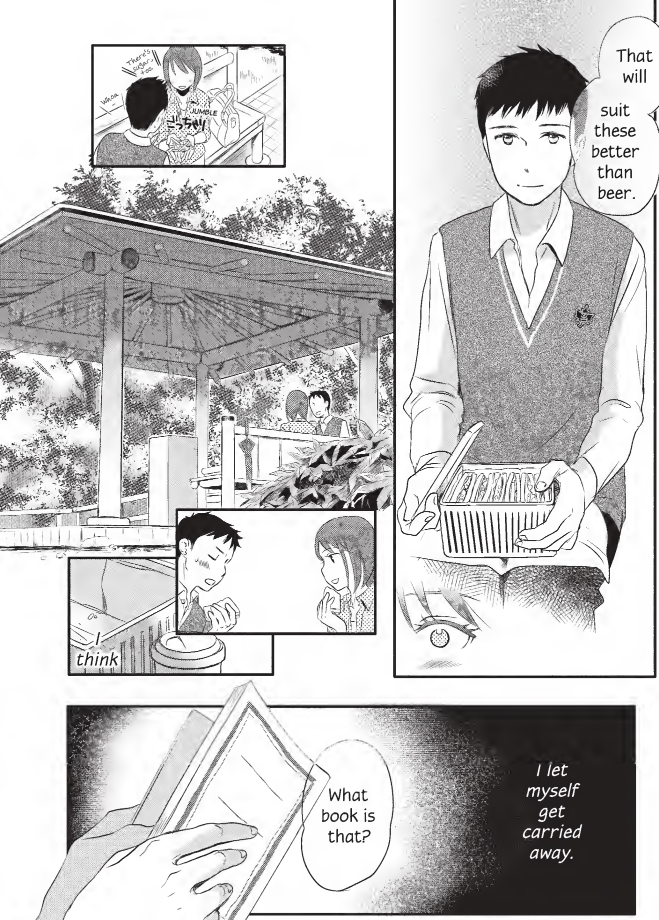

SHAA
TUNK
GLANCE ちら
...
I don't know anything about her, but she's definitely a little strange.
Chocolate and beer yet again ...
Uhm.
MUNCH もぐもぐ

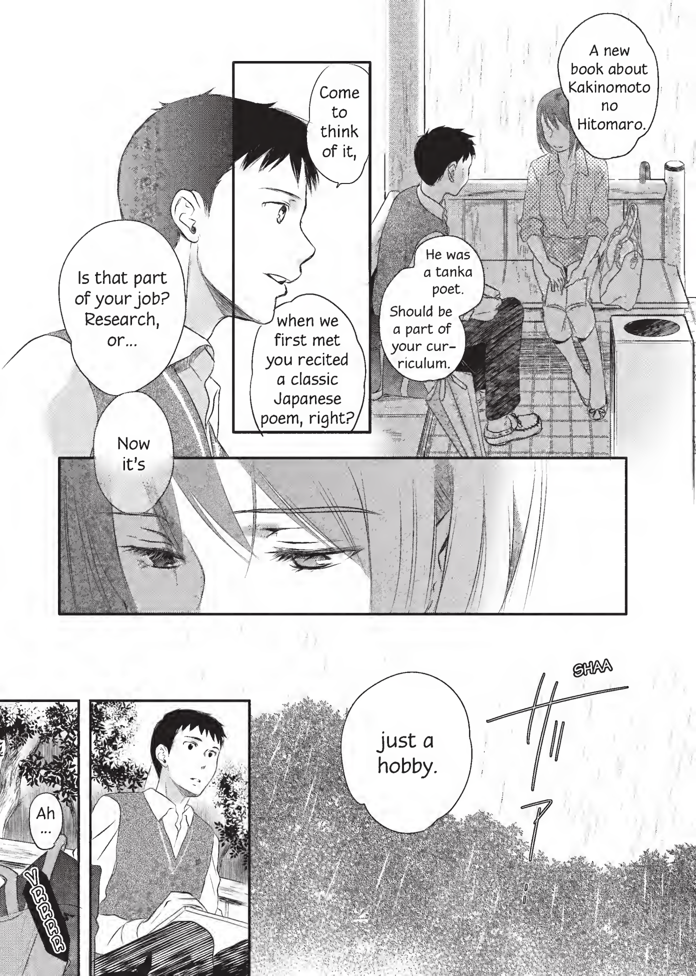

Do you want some?
RUSTLE
I think it's a bit healthier than just chocolate ...
PULL
...
Uh...
SLIP
It's OK if you'd rather not.
SHAA
Thank you.
I will.
On second thought,
maybe it was irrational to offer
home-made food to her when we didn't even know each other's names.
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
...
BA-DUM

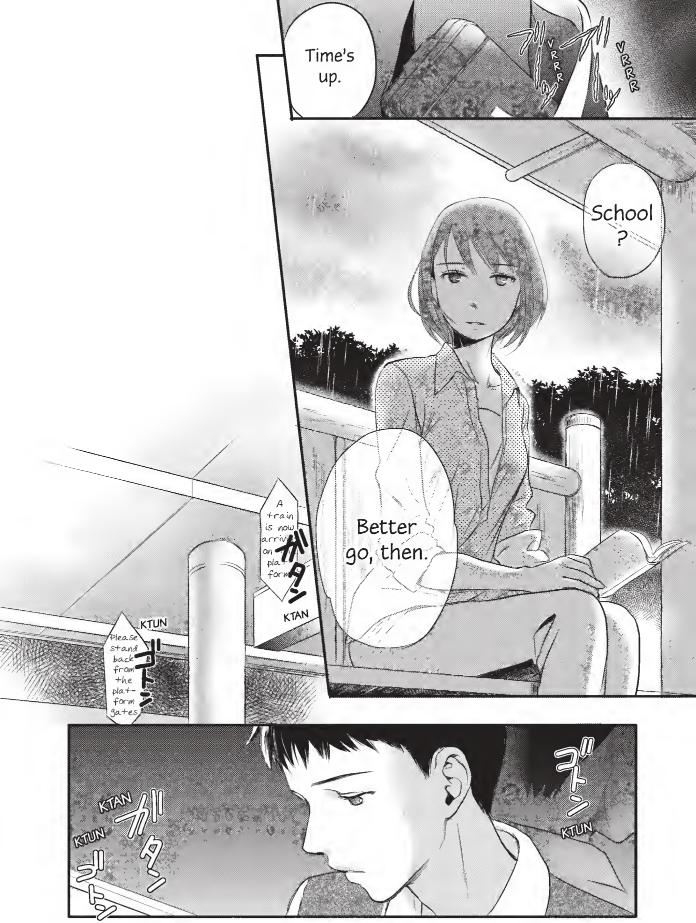

This is good...
Did you make this?
BADUM
Huh?
...
Yes. It was easy.
Wow! You're a good cook!
May I have anoth-er?!
Sure.
SKFF

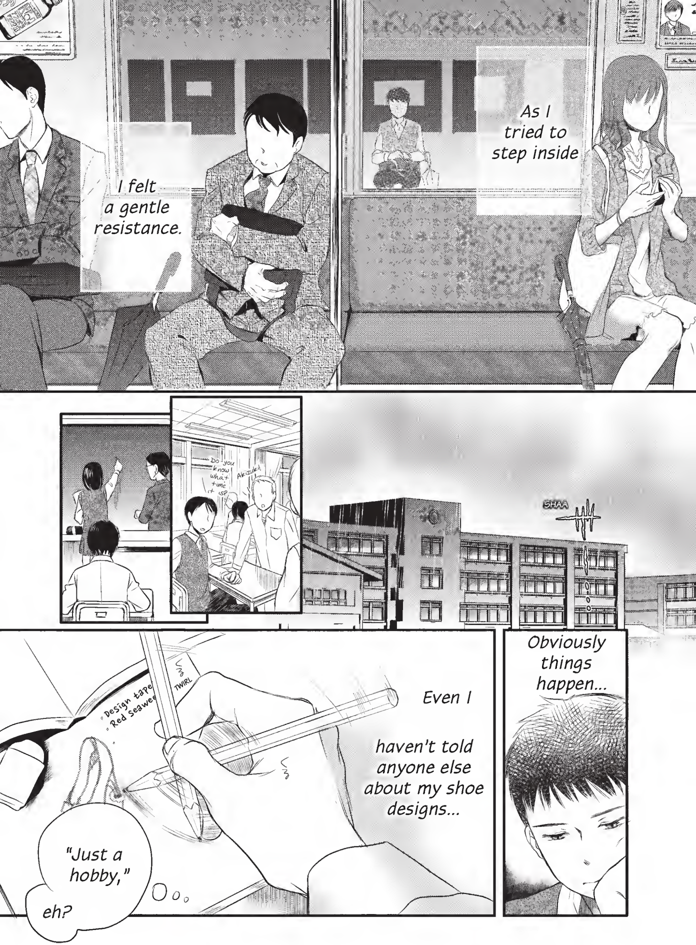

Whew.
A clap of thunder...? ...clouded bringing rain Will you stay beside me?
But still ...
What?! That was your lunch?!
Ate most of it
to think she'd be so thrilled.
Heh
Still,
it made me happy to have someone react like that to something I made.
Huh?

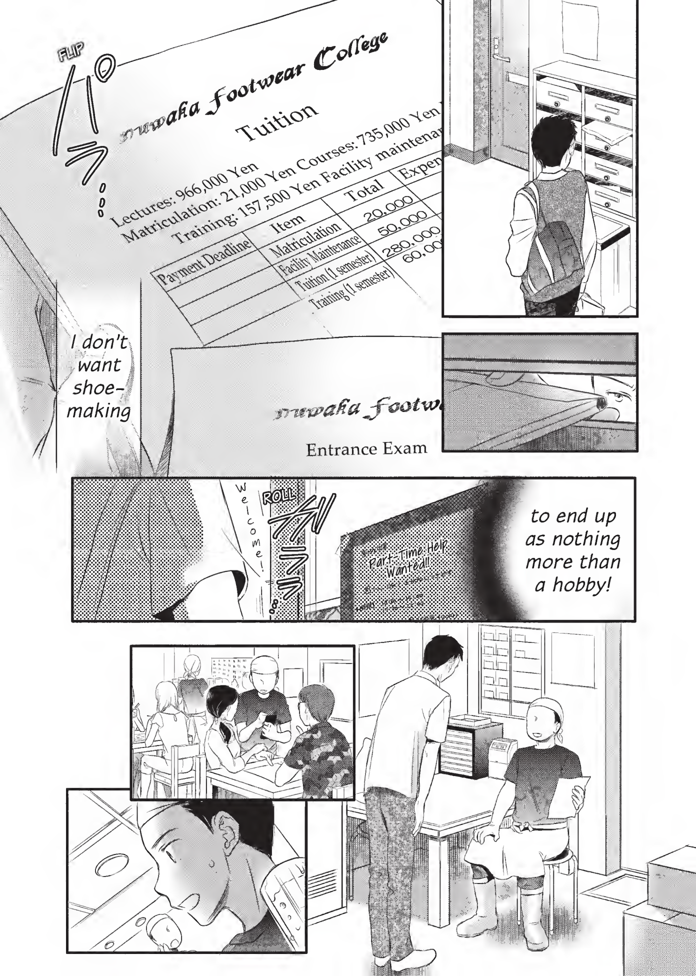

!
No beer today?
Uhm ...
WHSH
すッ
This is payback for yesterday.
If you like coffee, that is...
Oh, good.

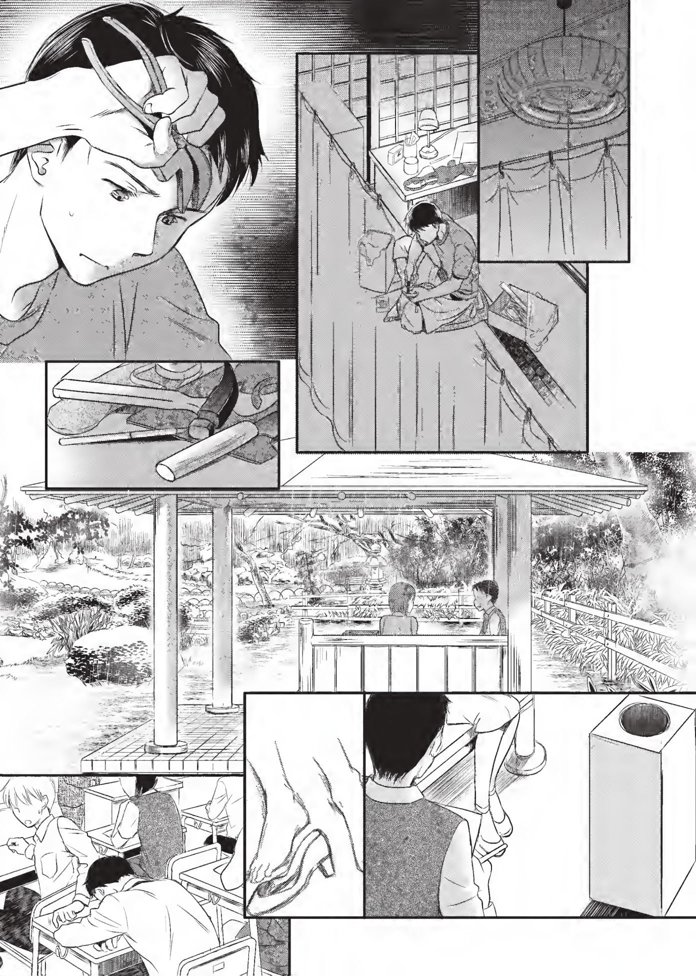

That will suit these better than beer.
There's sugar, too.
Whoa—
JUMBLE
ごっちゃ
I think
I let myself get carried away.
What book is that?

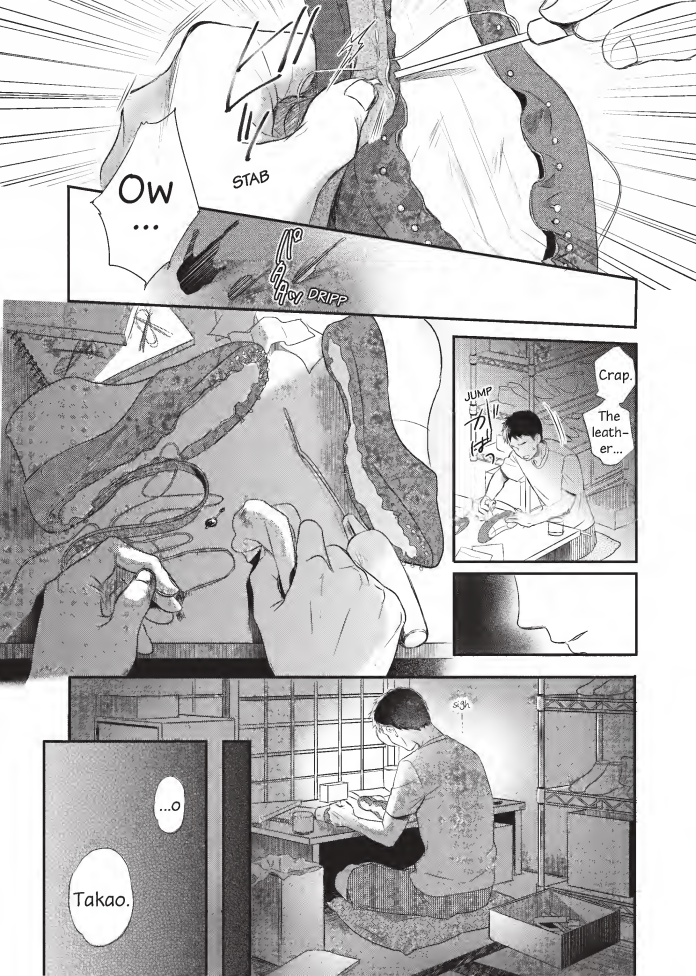

A new book about Kakinomoto no Hitomaro.
He was a tanka poet.
Should be a part of your curriculum.
Come to think of it,
when we first met you recited a classic Japanese poem, right?
Is that part of your job? Research, or...
Now it's
just a hobby.
SHAA
Ah ...
VRRRR

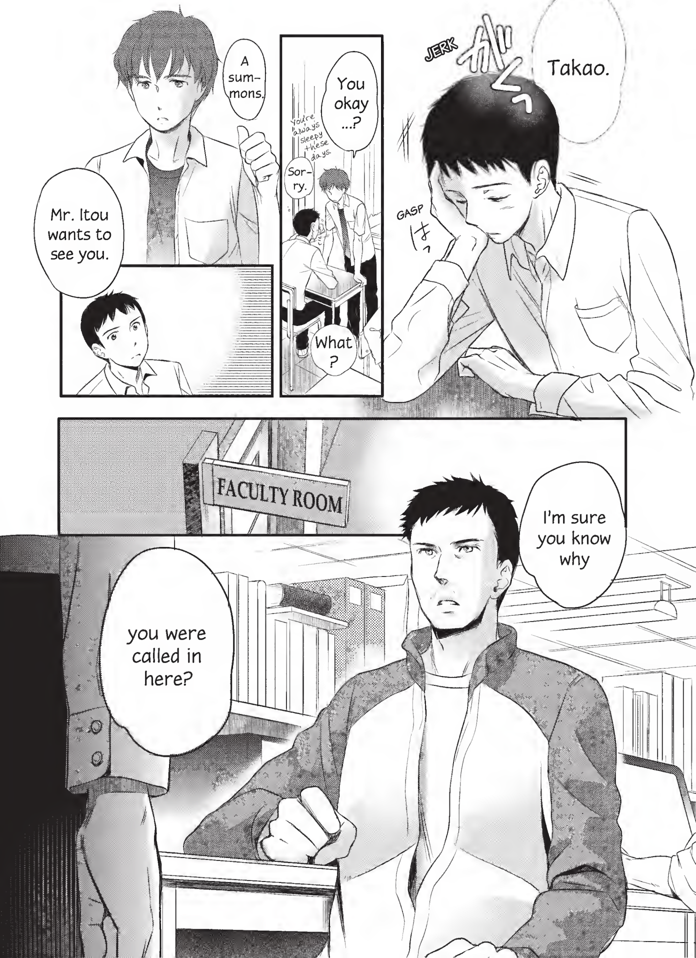

VRRR
VRRR
Time's up.
School?
Better go, then.
A train is now arrivi on plat form
ガタン
KTAN
Please stand back from the plat-form gates
ゴトン
KTUN
ゴトン
KTUN
ガタン
KTAN
KTUN
ゴトン

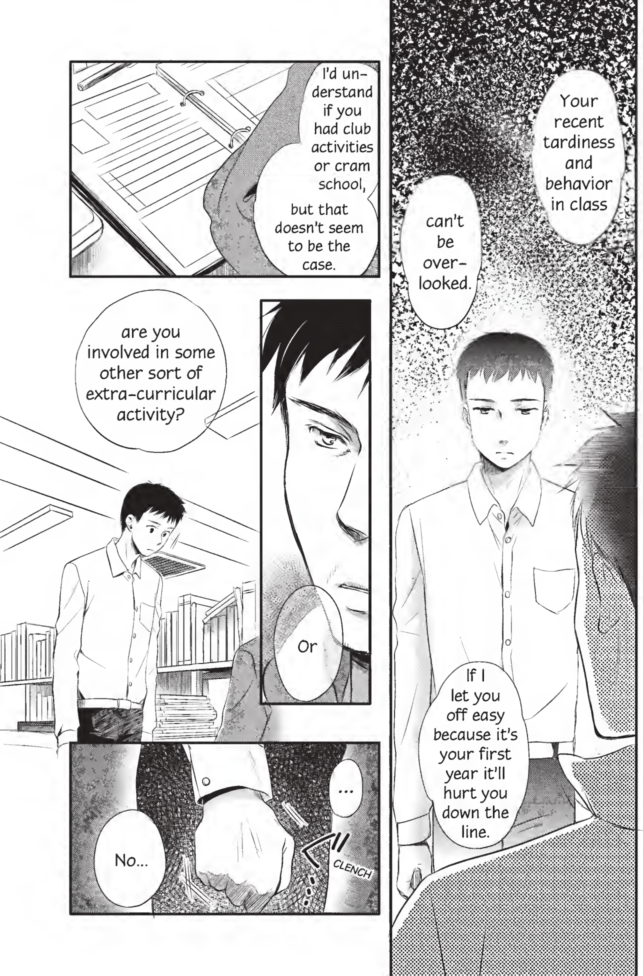

As I tried to step inside
I felt a gentle resistance.
SHAA
Akizuki!
Do you know what time it is?
Obviously things happen...
Even I
haven't told anyone else about my shoe designs...
TWIRL
Design tape
Red Seaweed
"Just a hobby,"
eh?

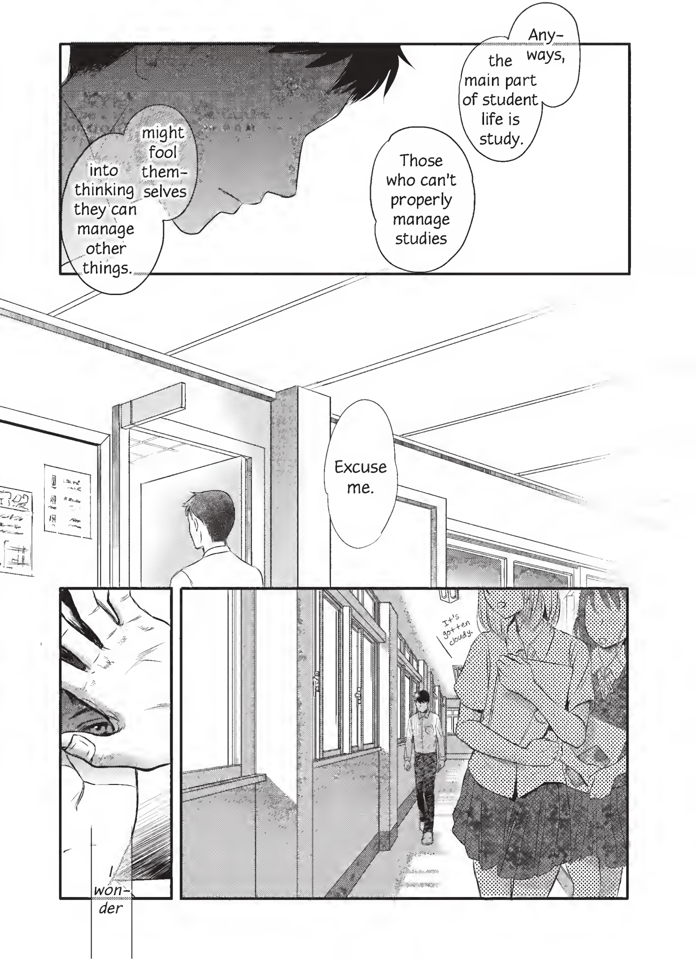

FLIP
パラ…
ruwaka Footwear College
Tuition
Lectures: 966,000 Yen Courses: 735,000 Yen
Matriculation: 21,000 Yen Facility maintenar
Training: 157,500 Yen
Payment Deadline
Item
Total
Expen
Matriculation
20,000
Facility Maintenance
50,000
Tuition (1 semester)
280,000
Training (1 semester)
60,00
ruwaka Footw
Entrance Exam
I don't want shoe-making
ROLL
Welcome!
ガラ…
Part-Time Help Wanted!!
to end up as nothing more than a hobby!

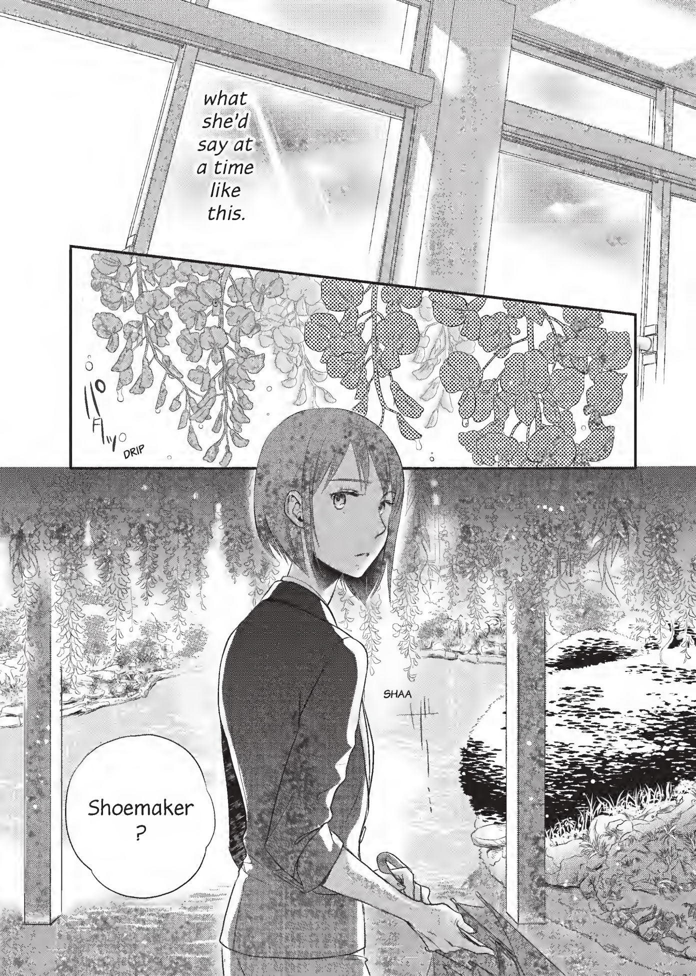


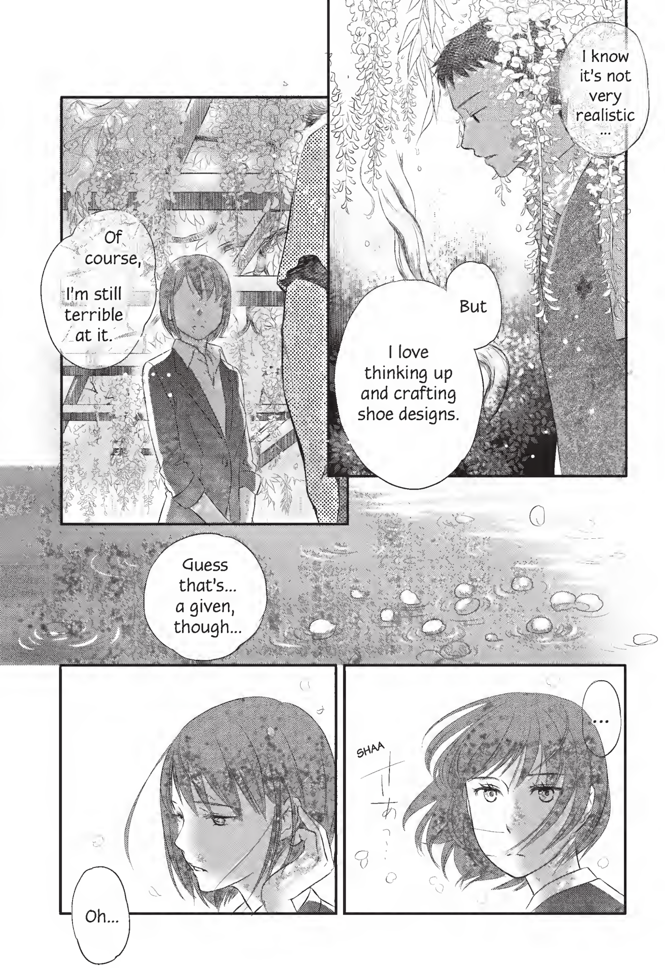

STAB
Ow
...
DRIPP
Crap.
The leather...
JUMP
sigh
...o
Takao.

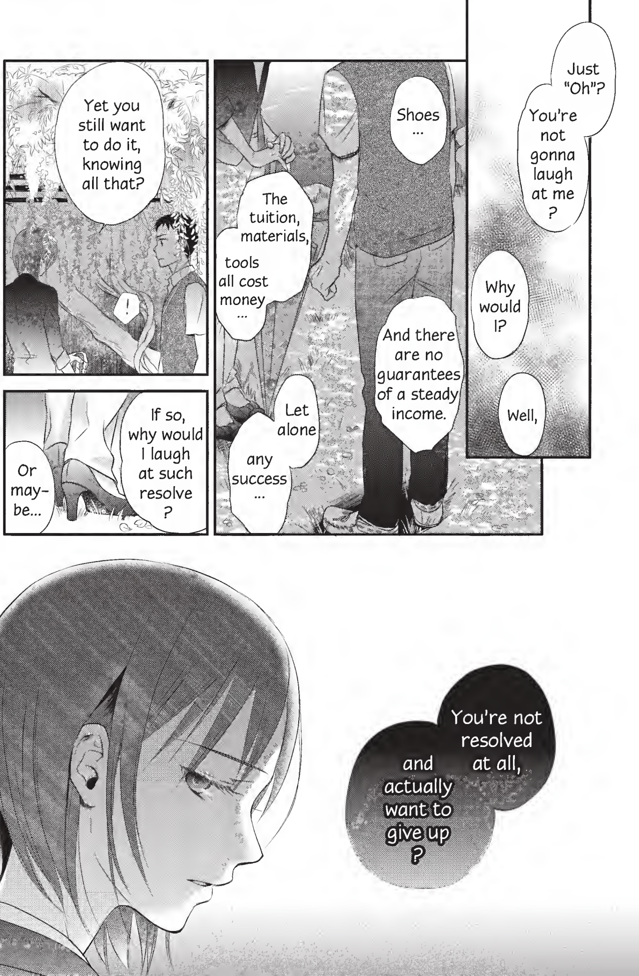

Takao.
JERK
GASP
You okay ...?
You're always sleepy these days.
Sorry.
What?
A summons.
Mr. Itou wants to see you.
FACULTY ROOM
I'm sure you know why
you were called in here?

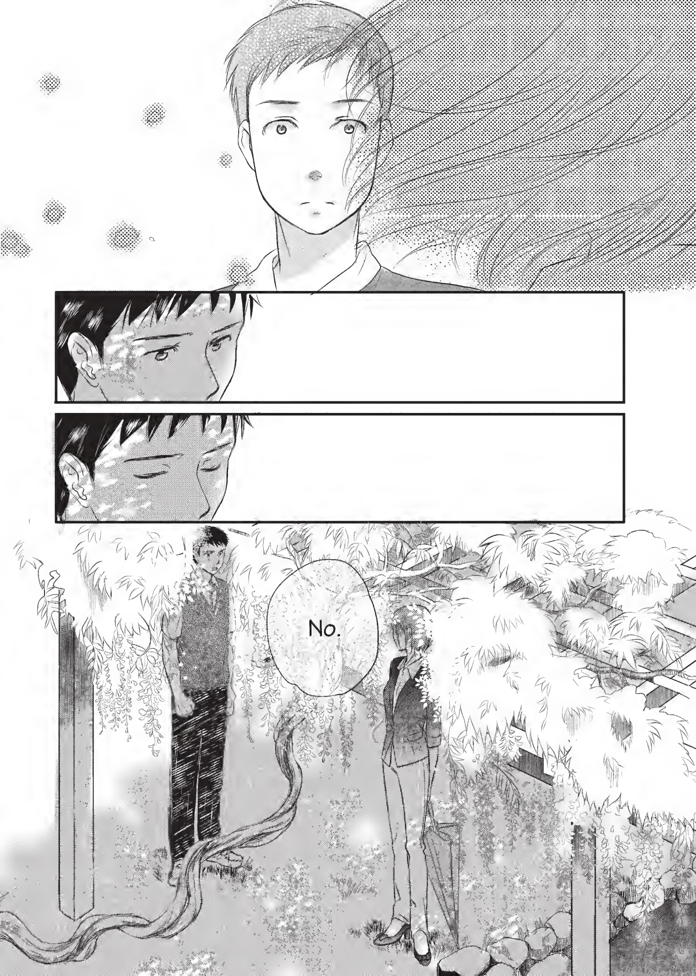

Your recent tardiness and behavior in class
can't be overlooked.
If I let you off easy because it's your first year it'll hurt you down the line.
I'd understand if you had club activities or cram school,
but that doesn't seem to be the case.
Or
are you involved in some other sort of extra-curricular activity?
...
No...
CLENCH

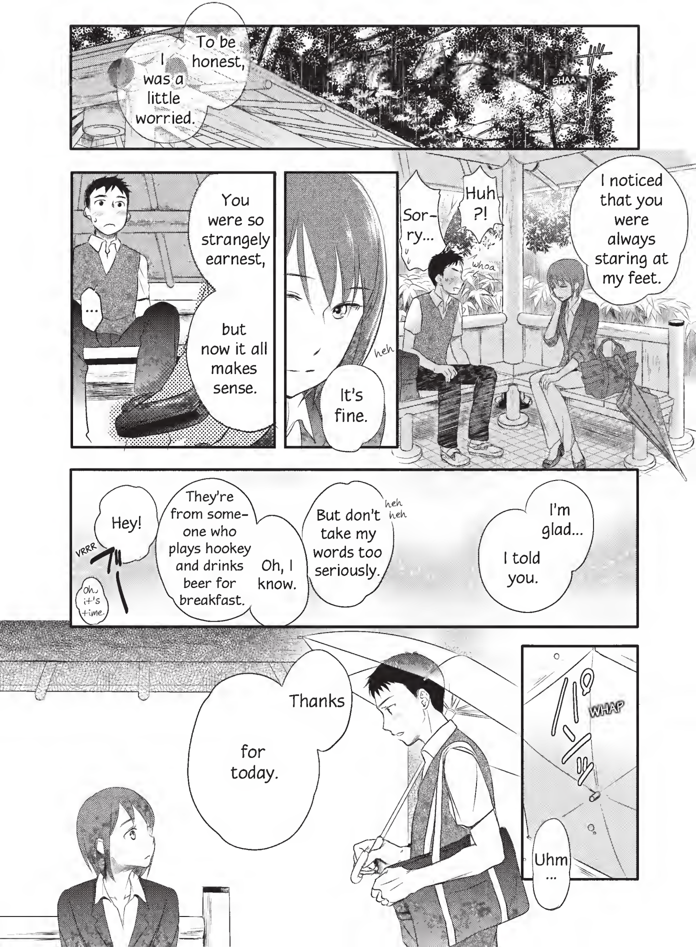

Anyways, the main part of student life is study.
Those who can't properly manage studies
might fool themselves into thinking they can manage other things.
Excuse me.
It's gotten cloudy.
I wonder

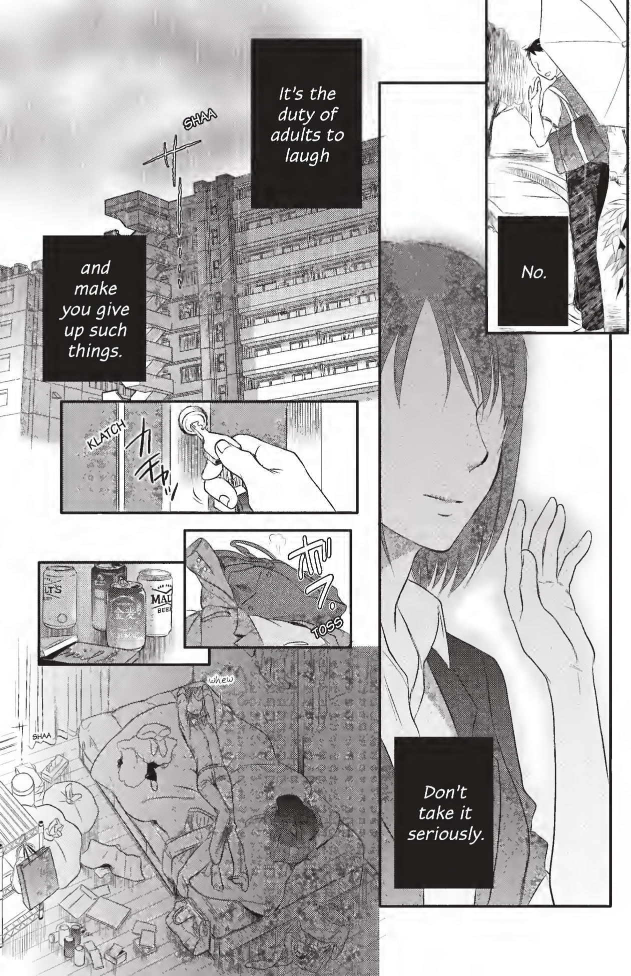

what she'd say at a time like this.
DRIP
SHAA
Shoemaker?

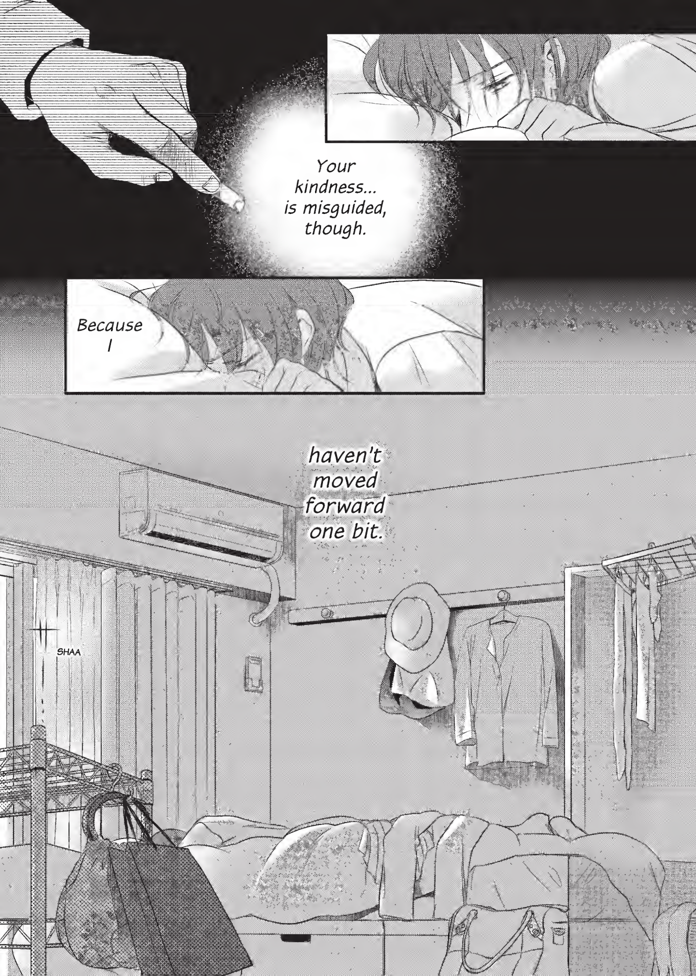

I know it's not very realistic...
But I love thinking up and crafting shoe designs.
Of course, I'm still terrible at it.
Guess that's... a given, though...
...
SHAA
サーあっ…
Oh...

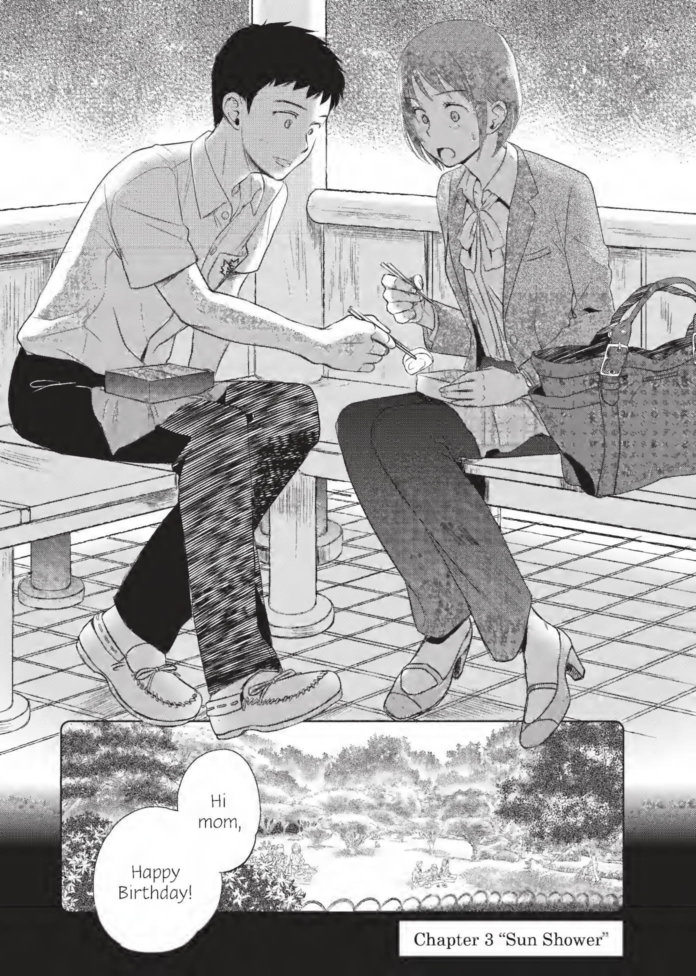

Just "Oh"?
You're not gonna laugh at me?
Why would I?
Well,
Shoes ...
The tuition, materials,
tools all cost money ...
And there are no guarantees of a steady income.
Let alone any success ...
Yet you still want to do it, knowing all that?
!
If so, why would I laugh at such resolve?
Or maybe...
You're not resolved at all,
and actually want to give up?


No.

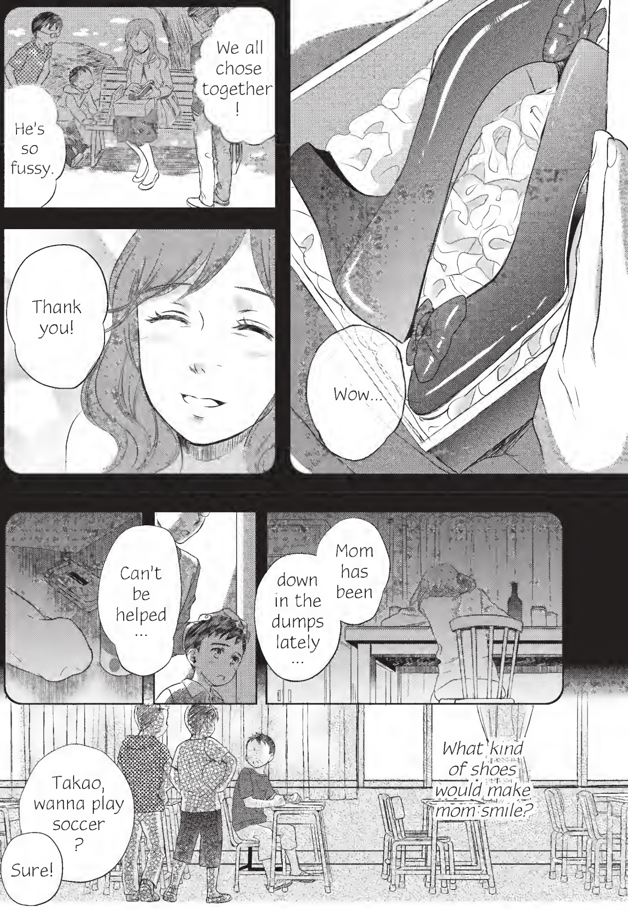

To be honest,
I was a little worried.
SHAA
I noticed that you were always staring at my feet.
Huh?!
whoa
Sorry...
heh
It's fine.
You were so strangely earnest,
but now it all makes sense.
...
I'm glad... I told you.
heh heh
But don't take my words too seriously.
Oh, I know.
They're from someone who plays hookey and drinks beer for breakfast.
Hey!
VRRR
Oh, it's time.
WHAP
Uhm ...
Thanks for today.

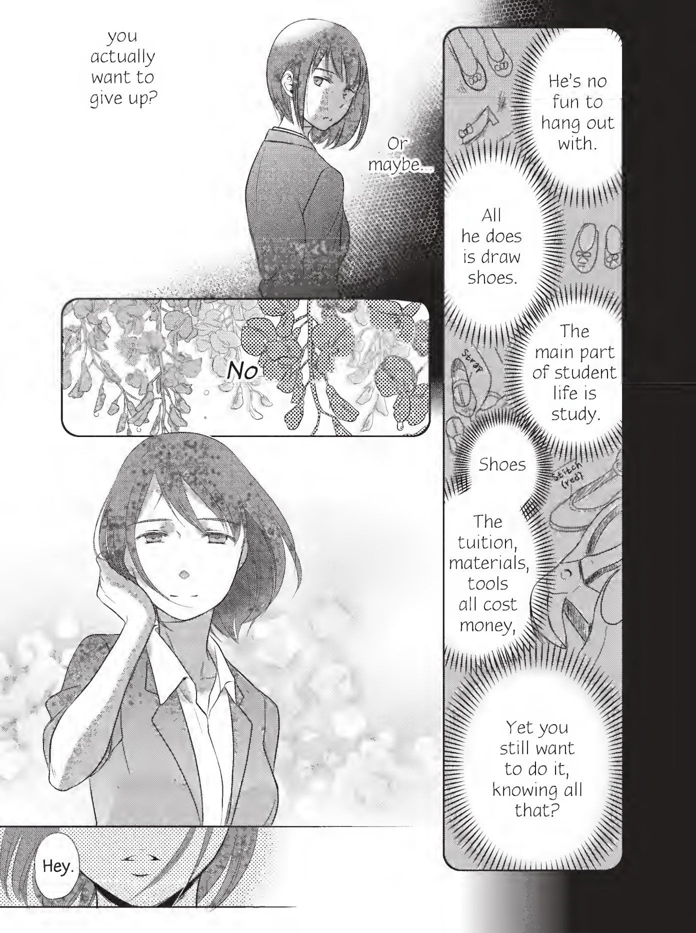

No.
Don't take it seriously.
It's the duty of adults to laugh
SHAA
and make you give up such things.
KLATCH
カチャッ
ボフ
TOSS
LT'S
MAL BEER
金麦
whew
SHAA

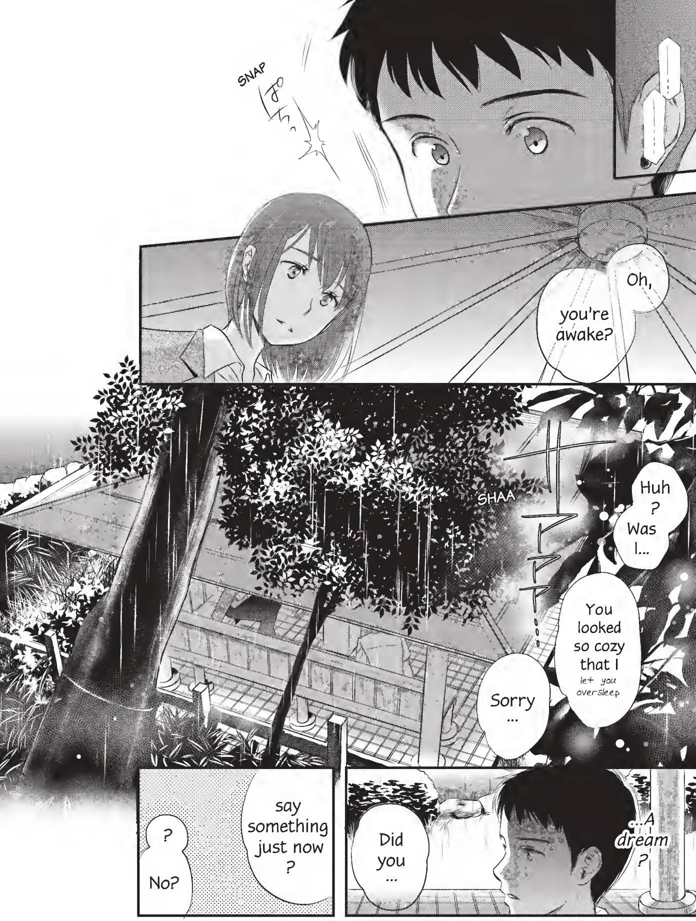

Your kindness... is misguided, though.
Because I
haven't moved forward one bit.
SHAA

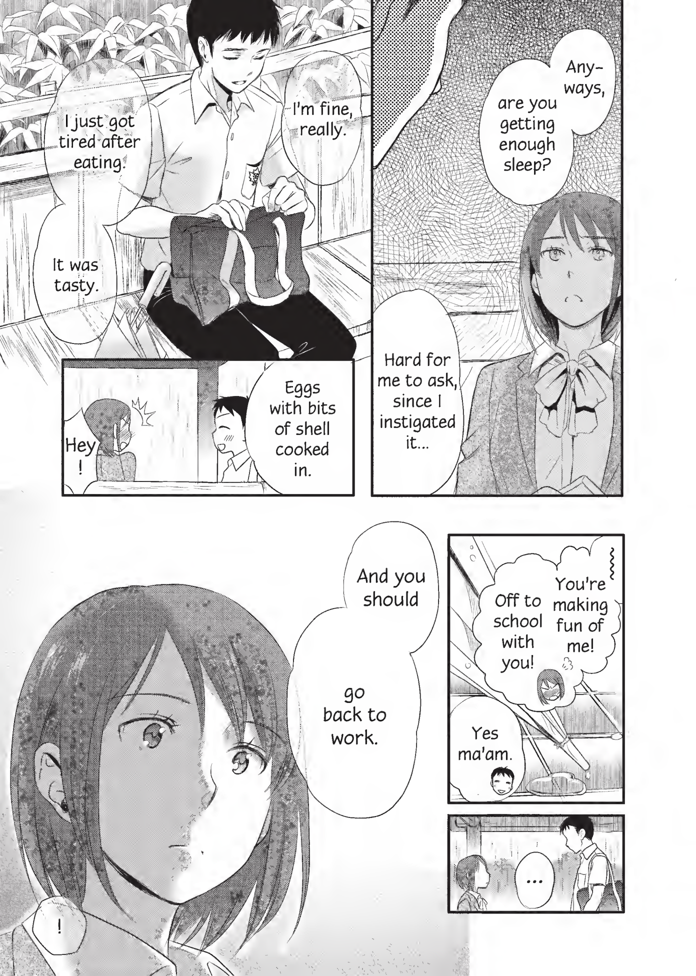

Hi mom,
Happy Birthday!

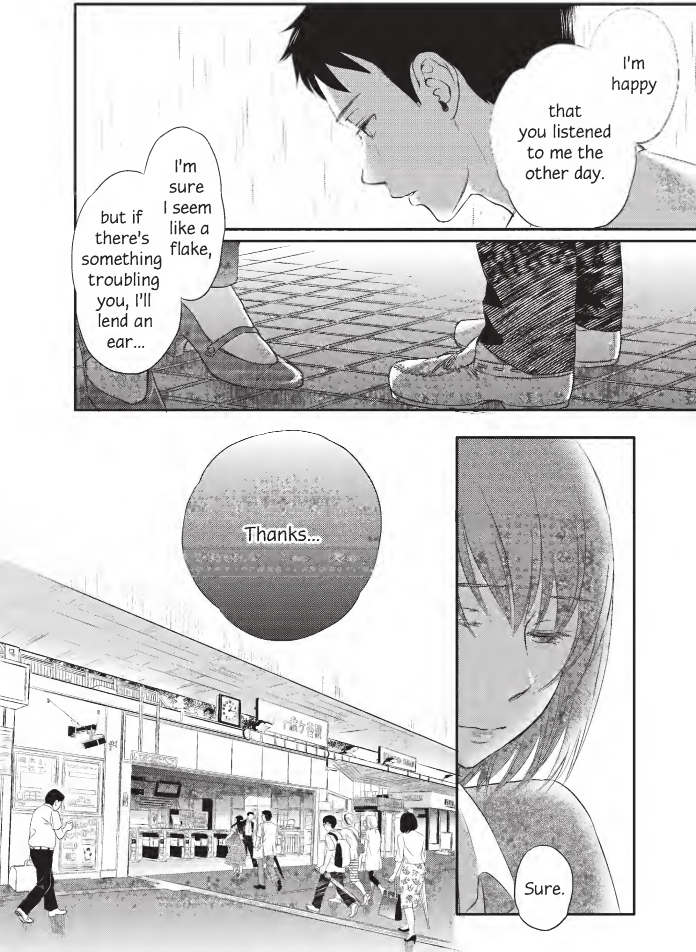
Chapter 3 “Sun Shower”

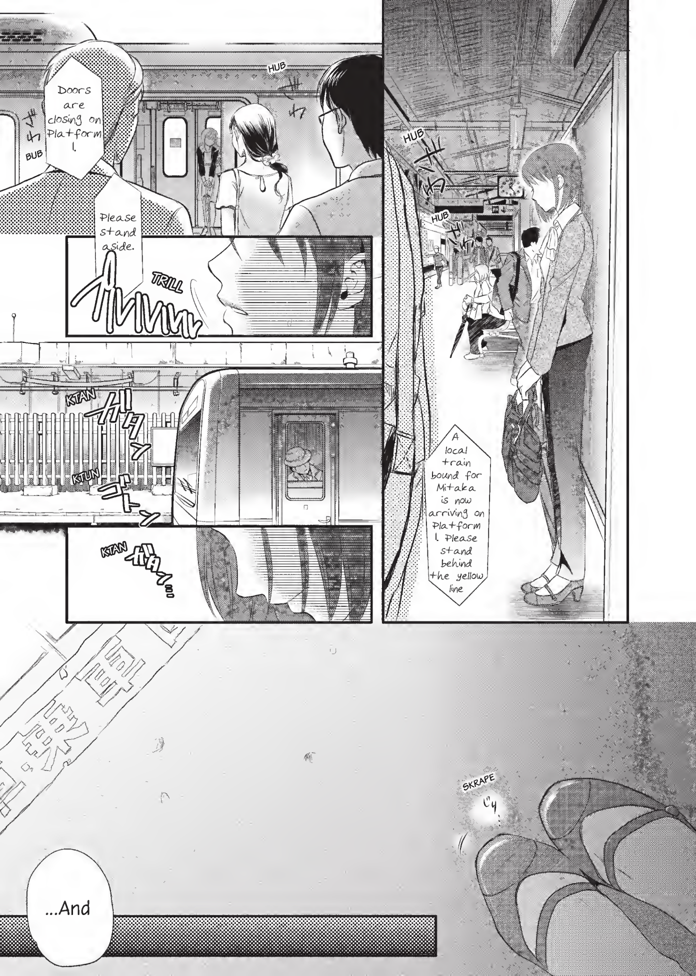

Wow...
We all chose together!
He's so fussy.
Thank you!
Mom has been down in the dumps lately...
Can't be helped...
What kind of shoes would make mom smile?
Takao, wanna play soccer?
Sure!

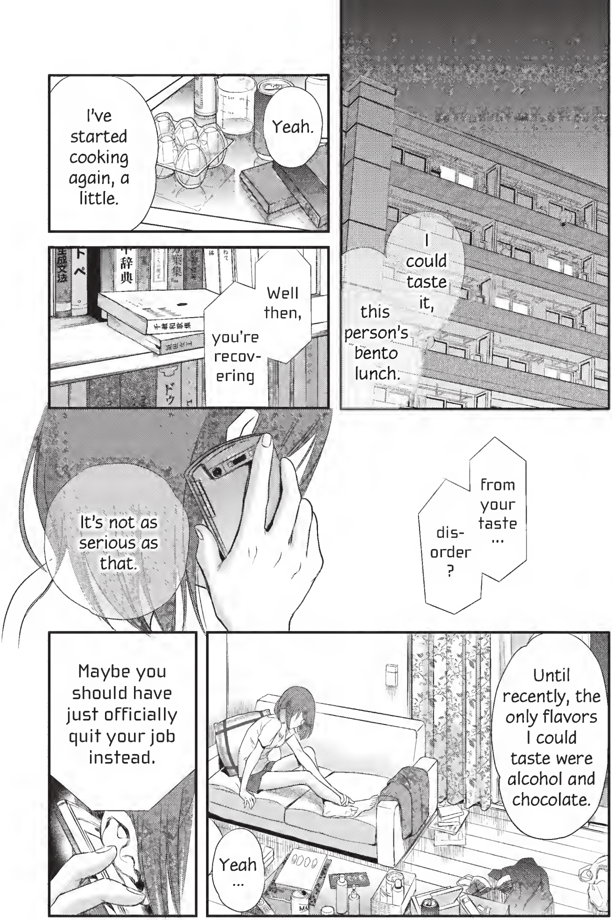

He's no fun to hang out with.
All he does is draw shoes.
Strap
The main part of student life is study.
Shoes
Stitch (red)
The tuition, materials, tools all cost money,
Yet you still want to do it, knowing all that?
Or maybe...
you actually want to give up?
No
Hey.

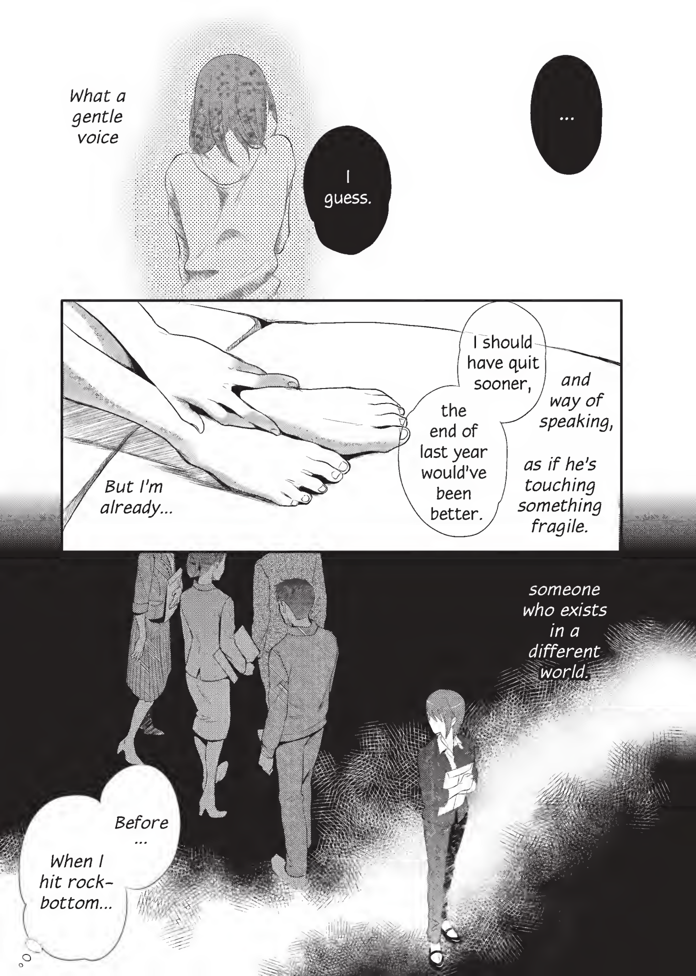

SNAP
ぽちっ
Oh,
you're awake?
SHAA
サァァァ…
Huh? Was I...
You looked so cozy that I let you oversleep
Sorry ...
...A dream?
Did you ...
say something just now?
?
No?

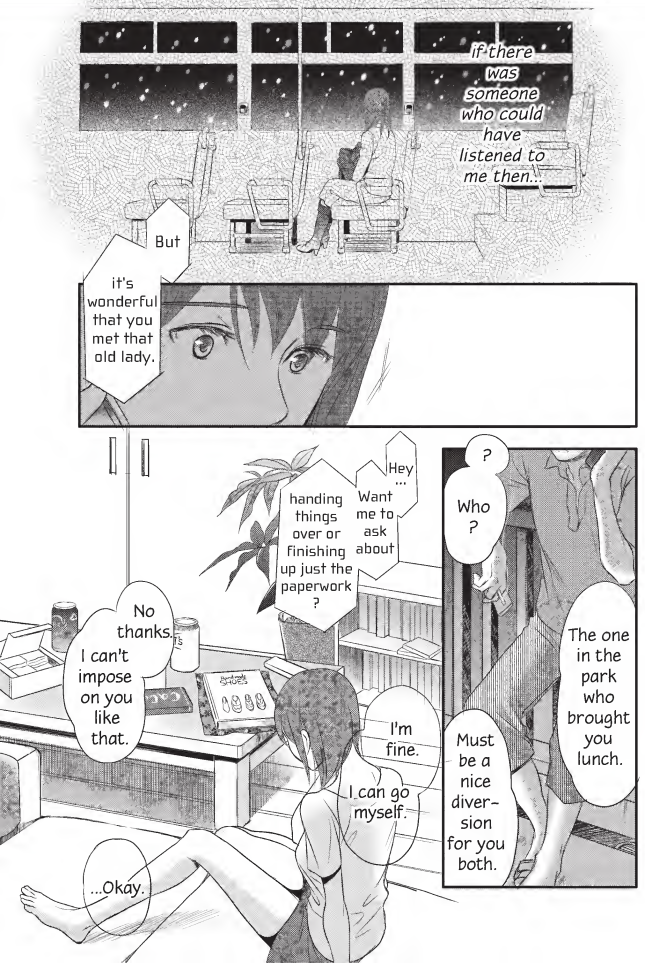

Any-ways, are you getting enough sleep?
Hard for me to ask, since I instigated it...
I'm fine, really.
I just got tired after eating.
It was tasty.
Eggs with bits of shell cooked in.
Hey!
You're making fun of me!
Off to school with you!
Yes ma'am.
...
And you should go back to work.
!

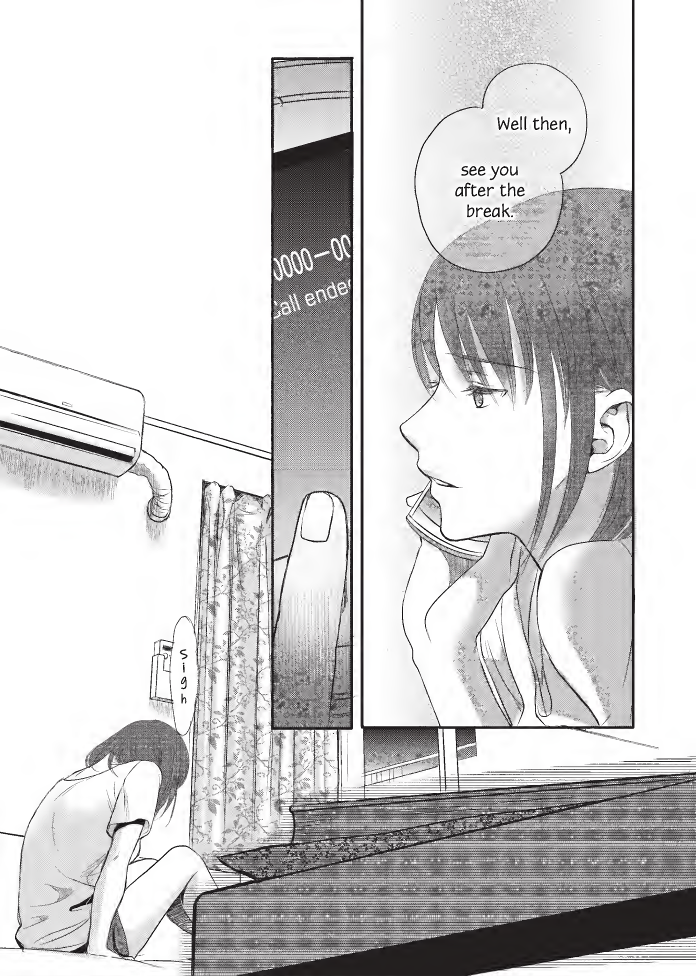

I'm happy that you listened to me the other day.
I'm sure I seem like a flake, but if there's something troubling you, I'll lend an ear...
Thanks...
Sure.

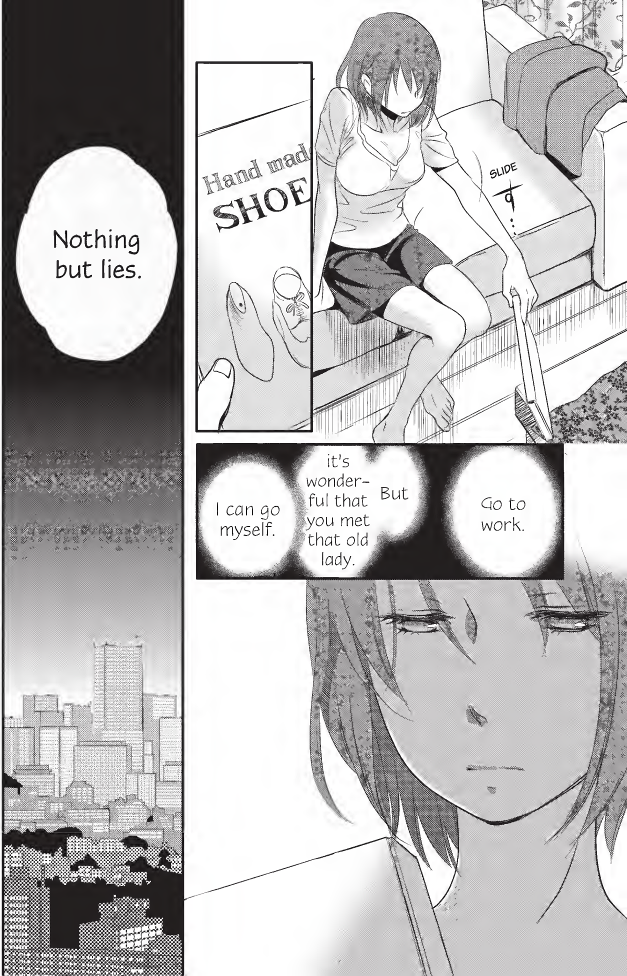

HUB
HUB
A local train bound for Mitaka is now arriving on Platform 1. Please stand behind the yellow line
HUB
HUB
BUB
Doors are closing on Platform 1.
Please stand aside.
TRILL
KTAN
KTUN
KTAN
SKRAPE
...And

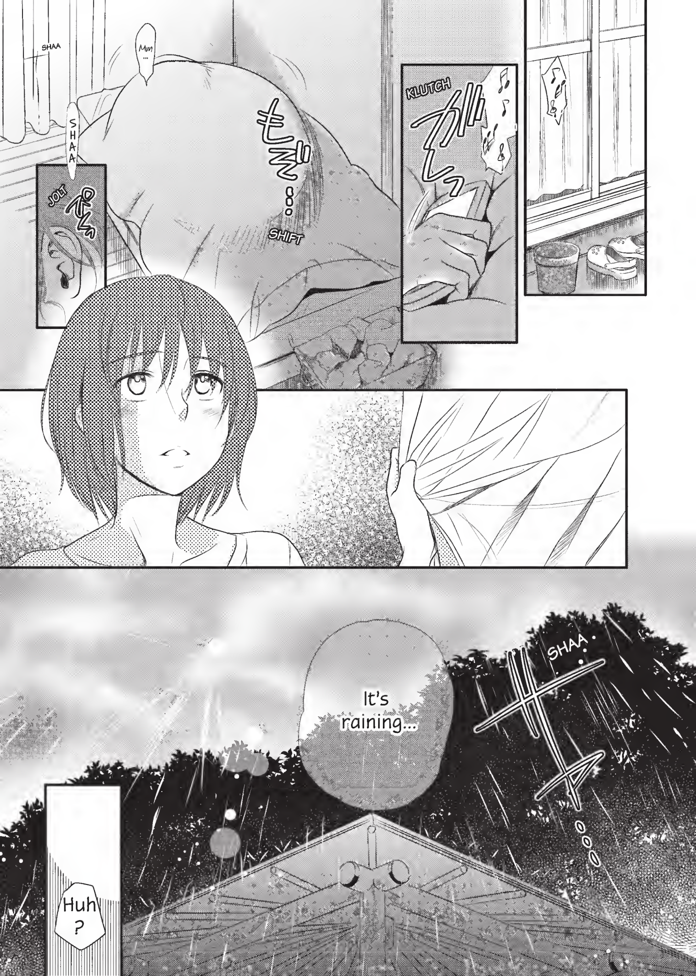

I could taste it, this person's bento lunch.
Yeah.
I've started cooking again, a little.
Well then, you're recovering
from your taste... disorder?
It's not as serious as that.
Until recently, the only flavors I could taste were alcohol and chocolate.
Yeah...
Maybe you should have just officially quit your job instead.

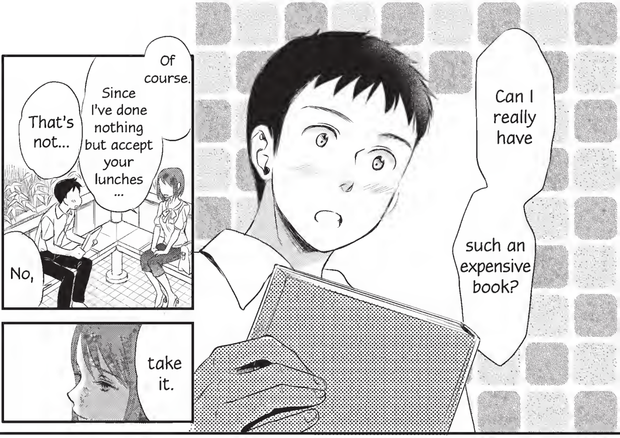

...
I guess.
What a gentle voice
and way of speaking,
as if he's touching something fragile.
I should have quit sooner,
the end of last year would've been better.
But I'm already...
someone who exists in a different world.
Before... When I hit rock-bottom...

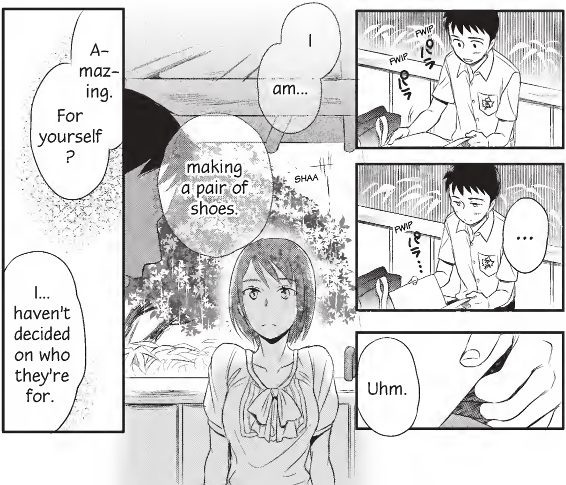

if there was someone who could have listened to me then...
But
it's wonderful that you met that old lady.
?
Who?
The one in the park who brought you lunch.
Must be a nice diversion for you both.
Hey... Want me to ask about
handing things over or finishing up just the paperwork?
I'm fine.
I can go myself.
No thanks. I can't impose on you like that.
...Okay.
Handmade SHOES

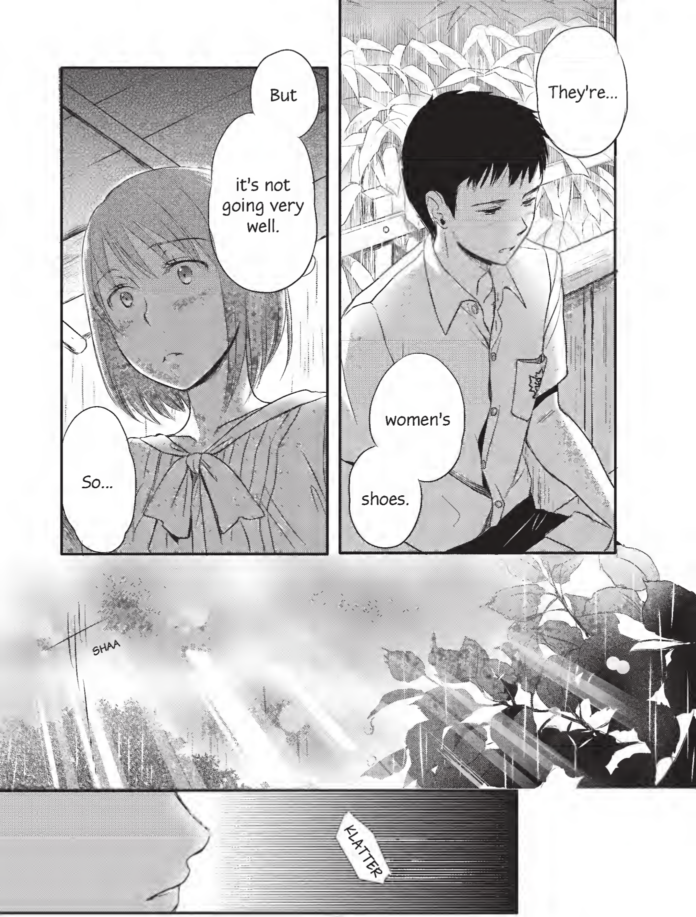

Well then,
see you after the break.
0000-00
Call ende
Sigh

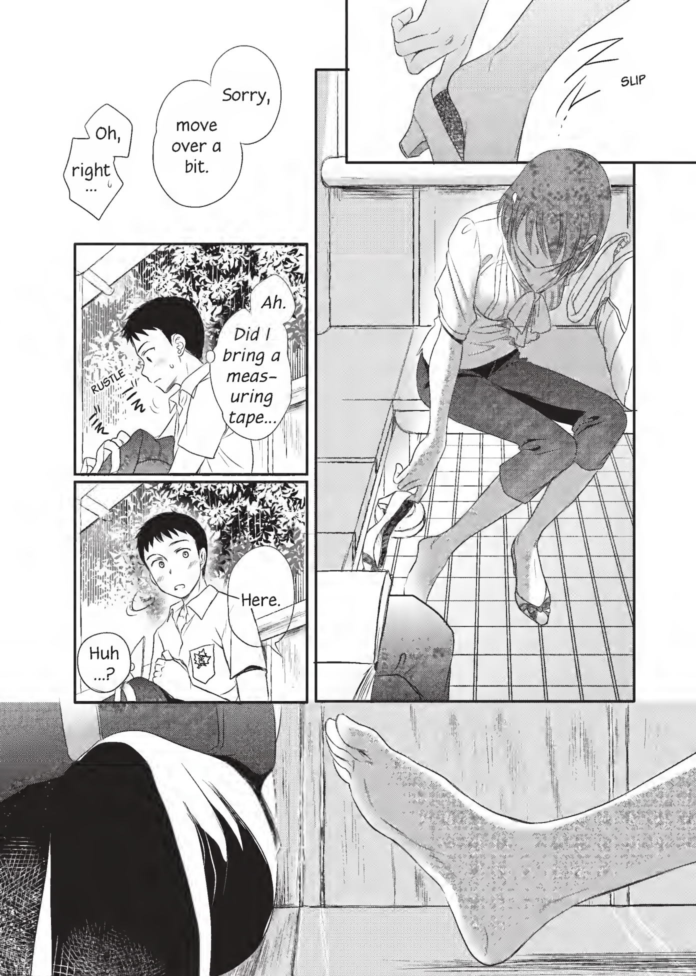

SLIDE
Hand made SHOE
Go to work.
But
it's wonderful that you met that old lady.
I can go myself.
Nothing but lies.

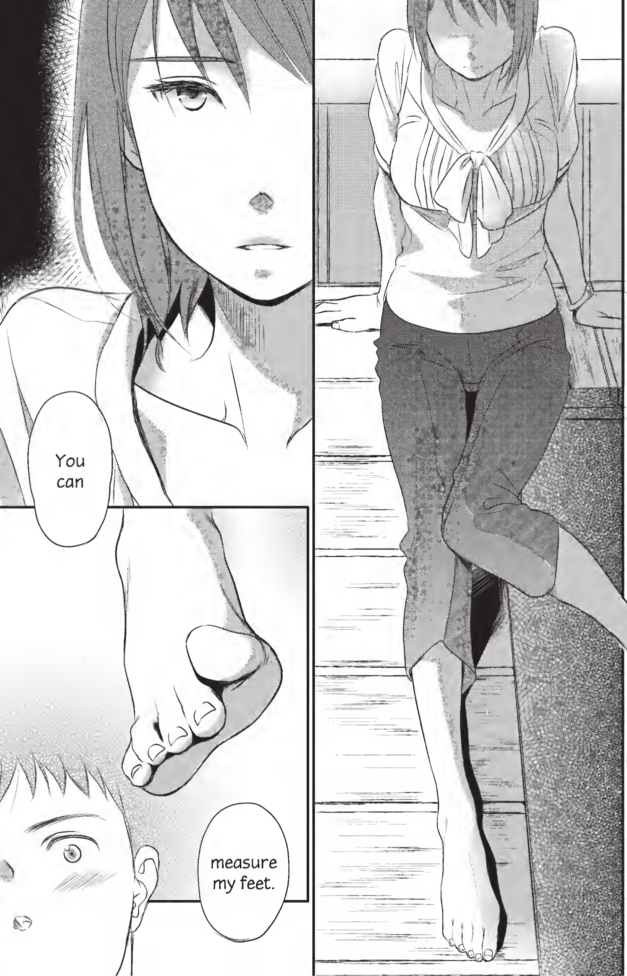

KLUTCH
Mm ...
SHAA
SHAA
もぞ…
SHIFT
JOLT
SHAA
It's raining...
Huh?

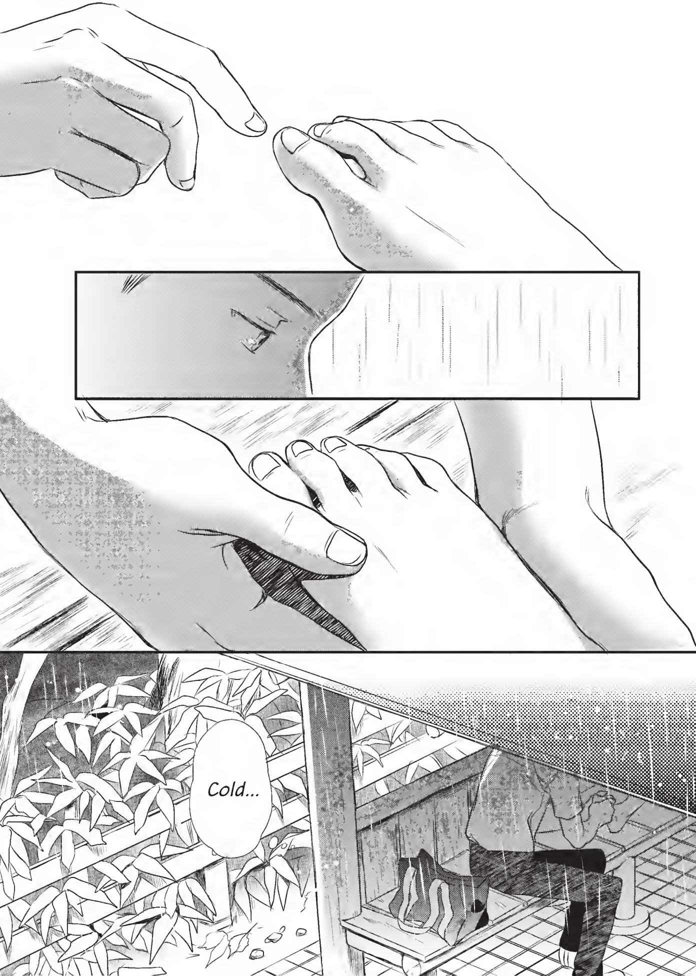

Can I really have such an expensive book?
Of course.
Since I've done nothing but accept your lunches ...
That's not...
No,
take it.

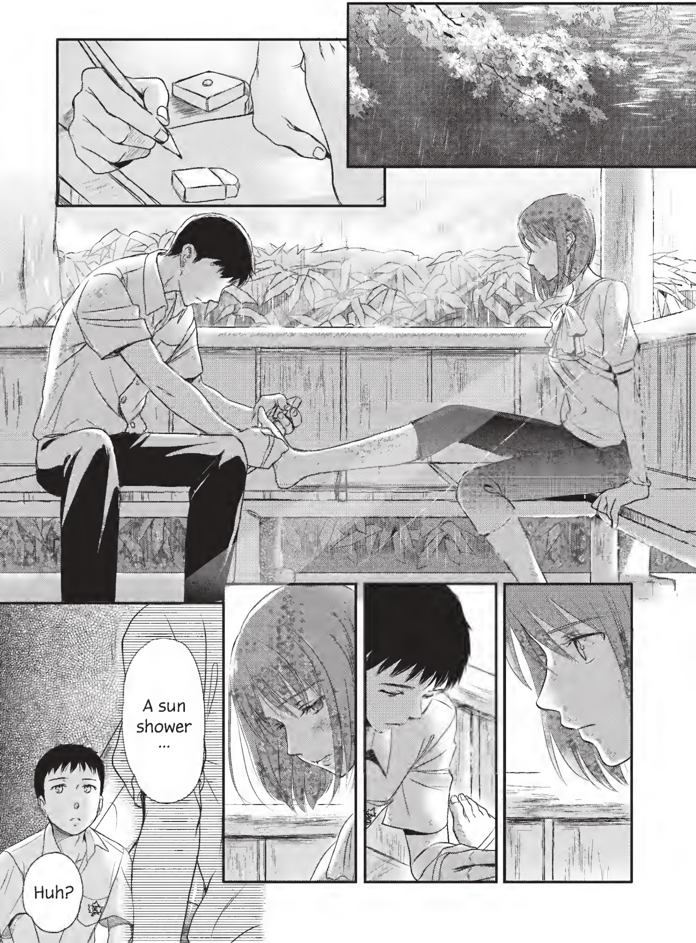

FWIP パラ
FWIP パラ
FWIP パラ…
...
Uhm.
I am...
making a pair of shoes.
SHAA
A-maz-ing. For yourself?
I... haven't decided on who they're for.

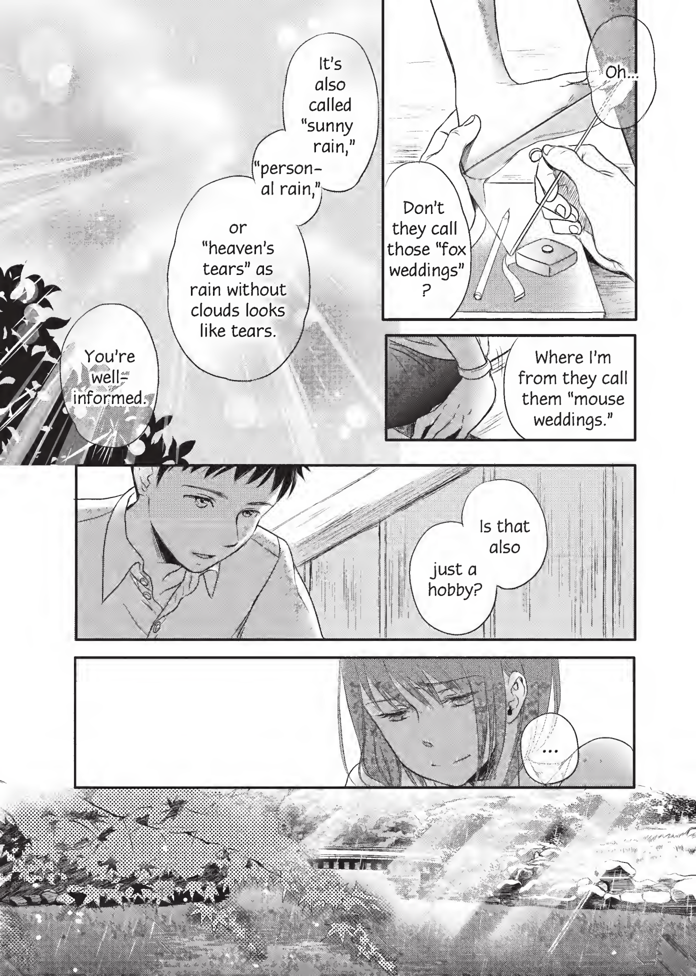

They're...
women's
shoes.
But
it's not going very well.
So...
SHAA
KLATTER

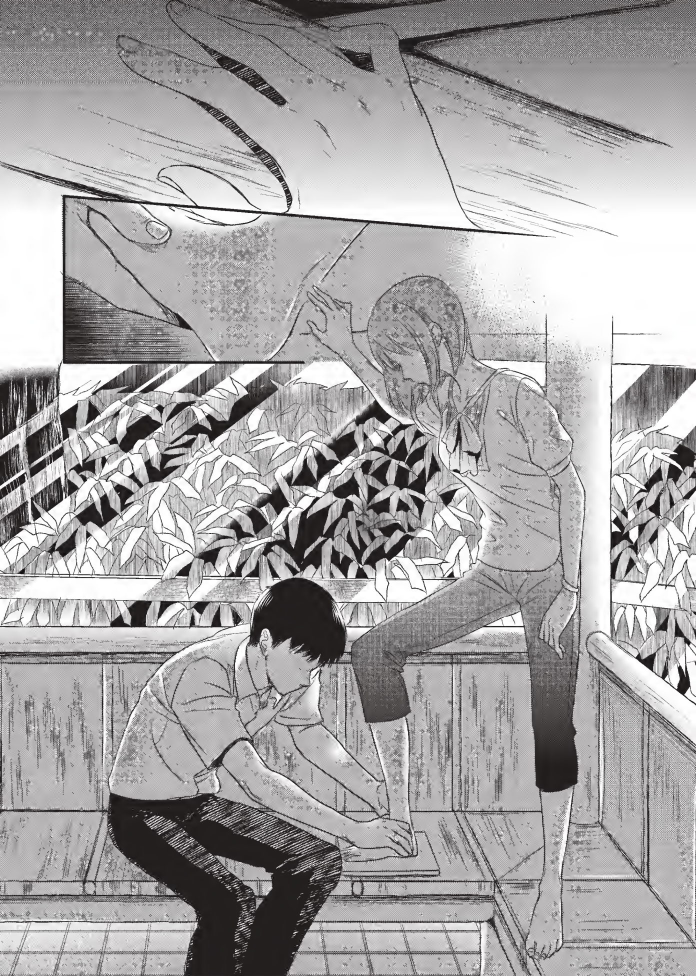

SLIP
Sorry, move over a bit.
Oh, right ...
RUSTLE
Ah. Did I bring a measuring tape...
Here.
Huh ...?

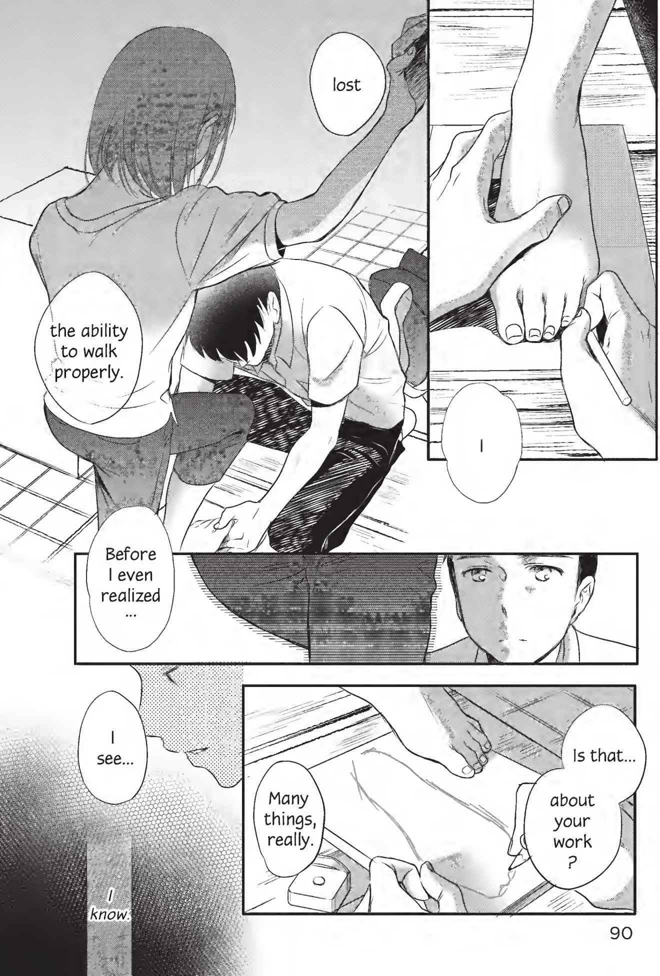

You can
measure my feet.

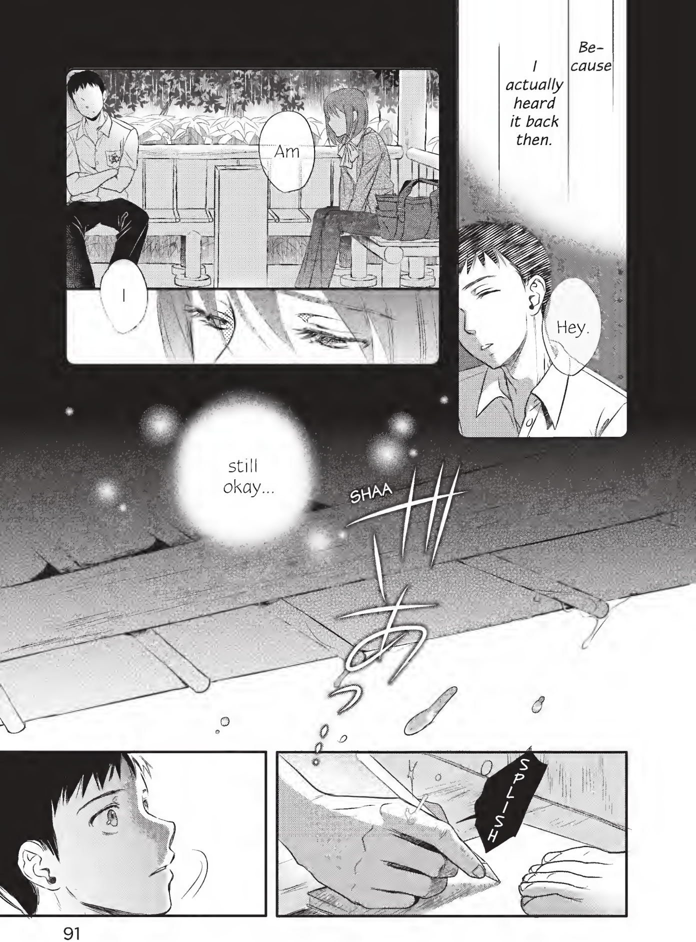

Cold...

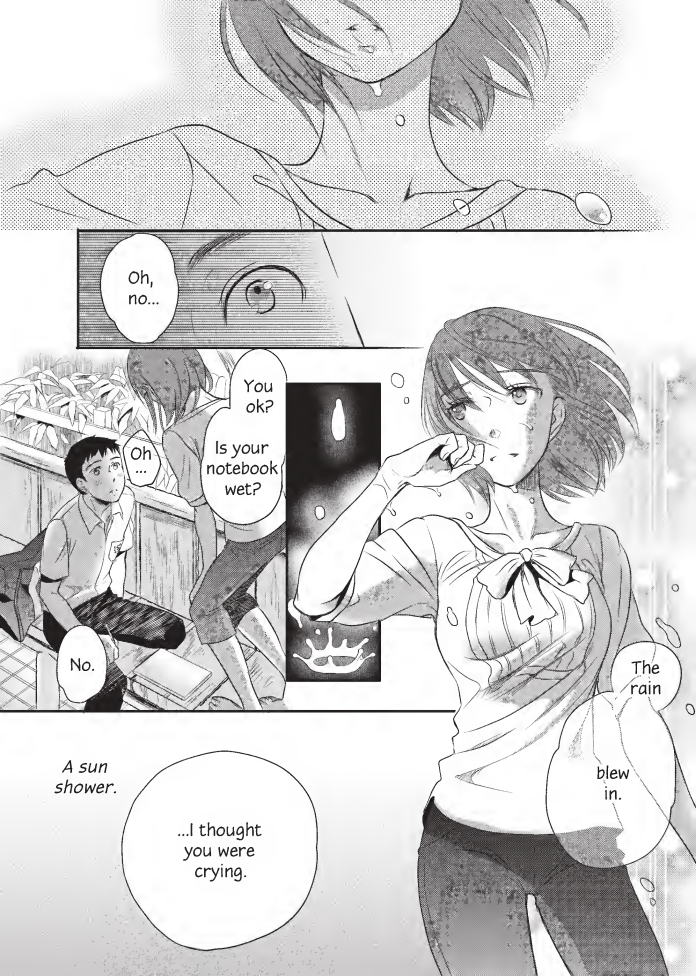

A sun shower ...
Huh?

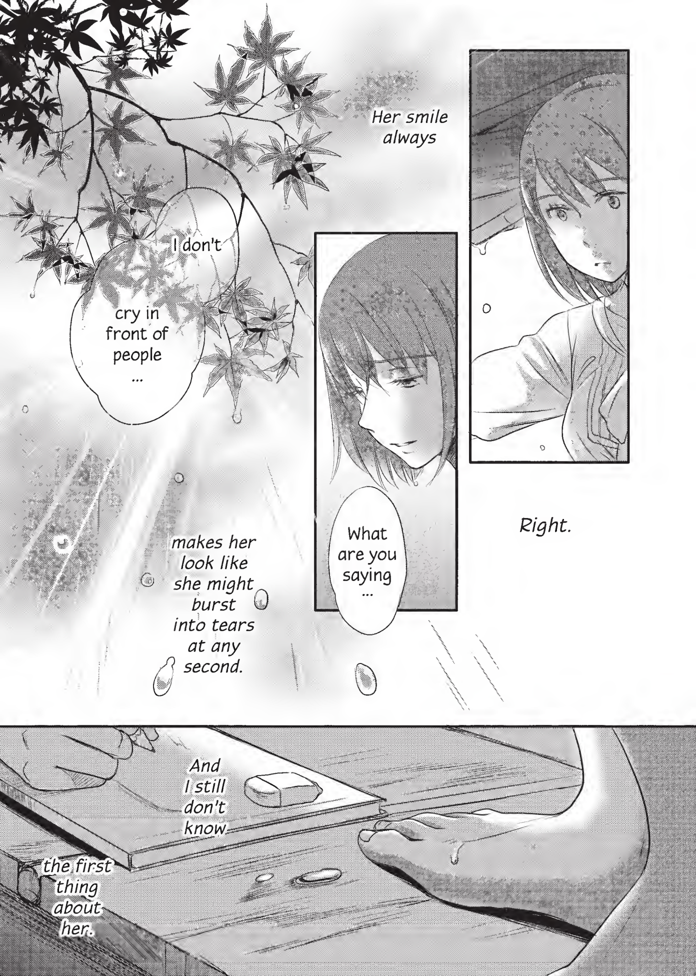

Oh...
Don't they call those "fox weddings"?
It's also called "sunny rain," "personal rain,"
or "heaven's tears" as rain without clouds looks like tears.
You're well-informed.
Where I'm from they call them "mouse weddings."
Is that also just a hobby?
...

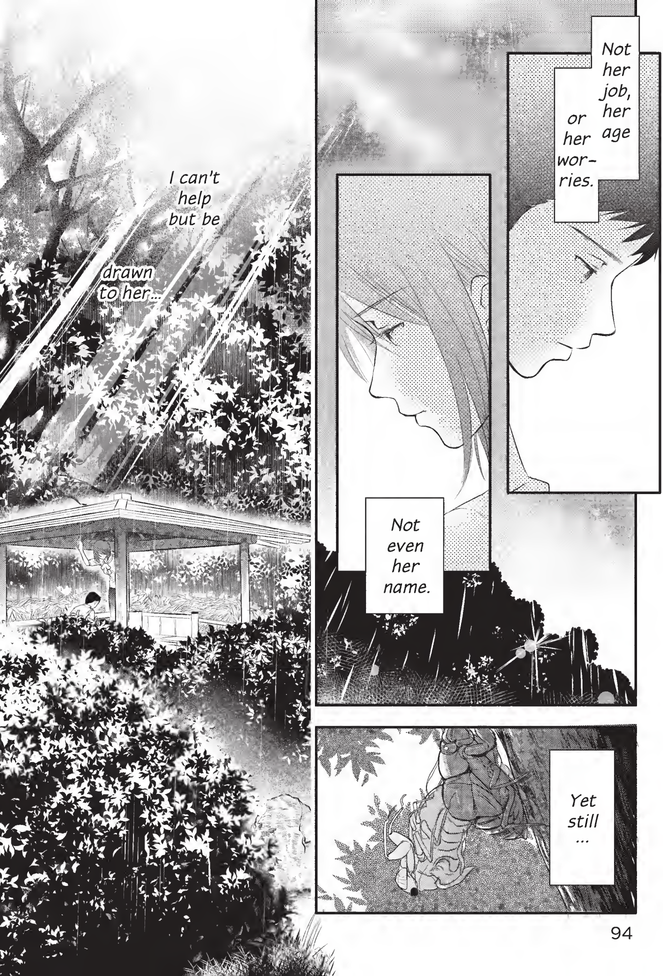



I
lost
the ability to walk properly.
Before I even realized...
Is that...
about your work?
Many things, really.
I see...
I know.

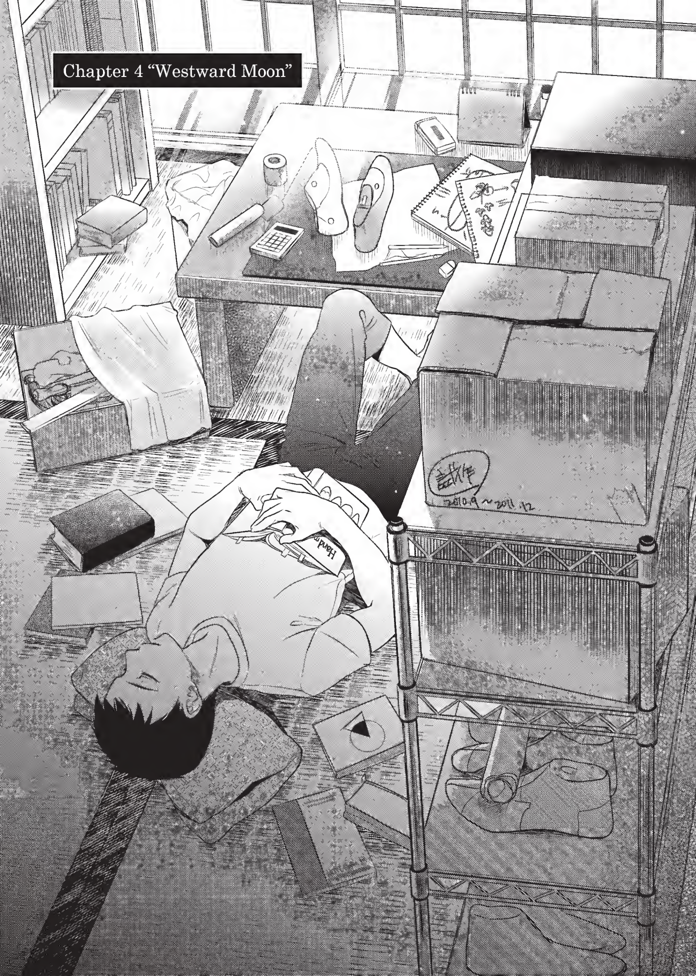

Because I actually heard it back then.
Hey.
Am
I
still okay...
SHAA
SPLISH

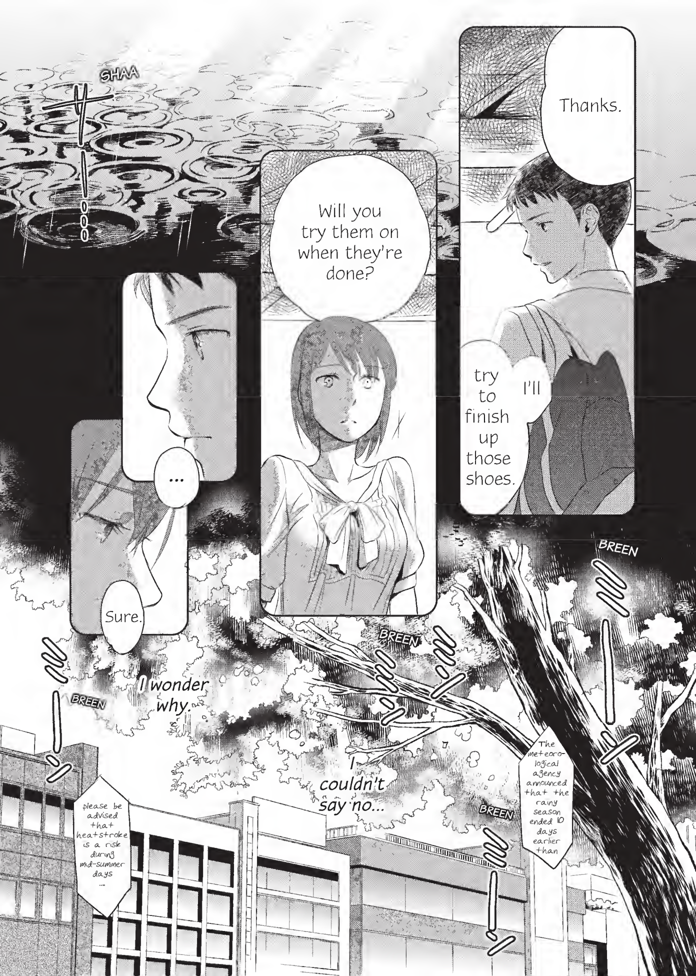

Oh, no...
You ok?
Is your notebook wet?
Oh ...
No.
The rain
blew in.
A sun shower.
...I thought you were crying.

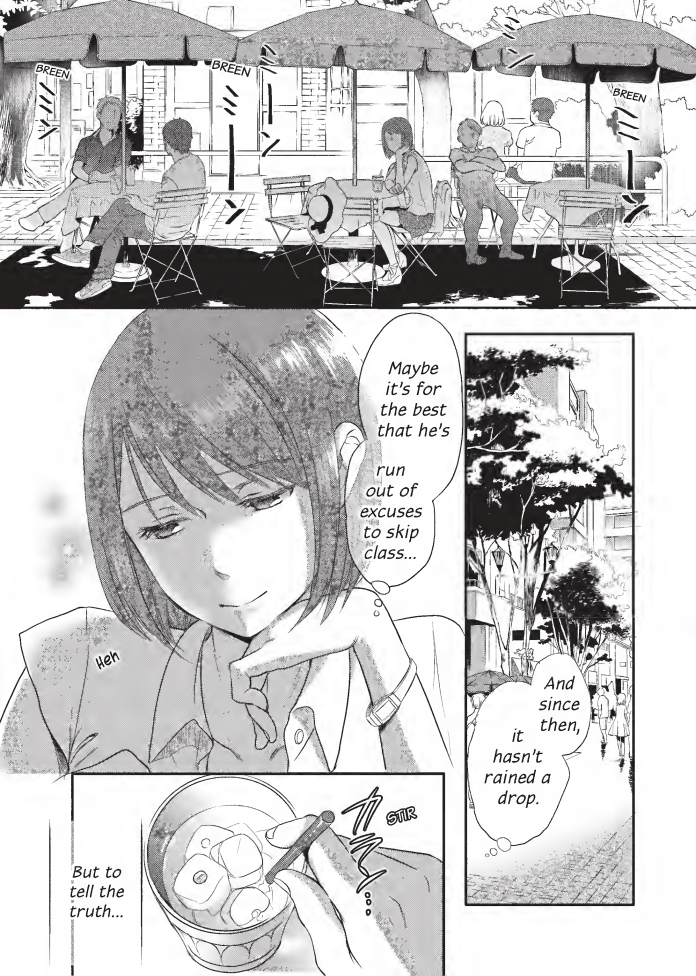

Her smile always
Right.
What are you saying ...
I don't cry in front of people ...
makes her look like she might burst into tears at any second.
And I still don't know
the first thing about her.

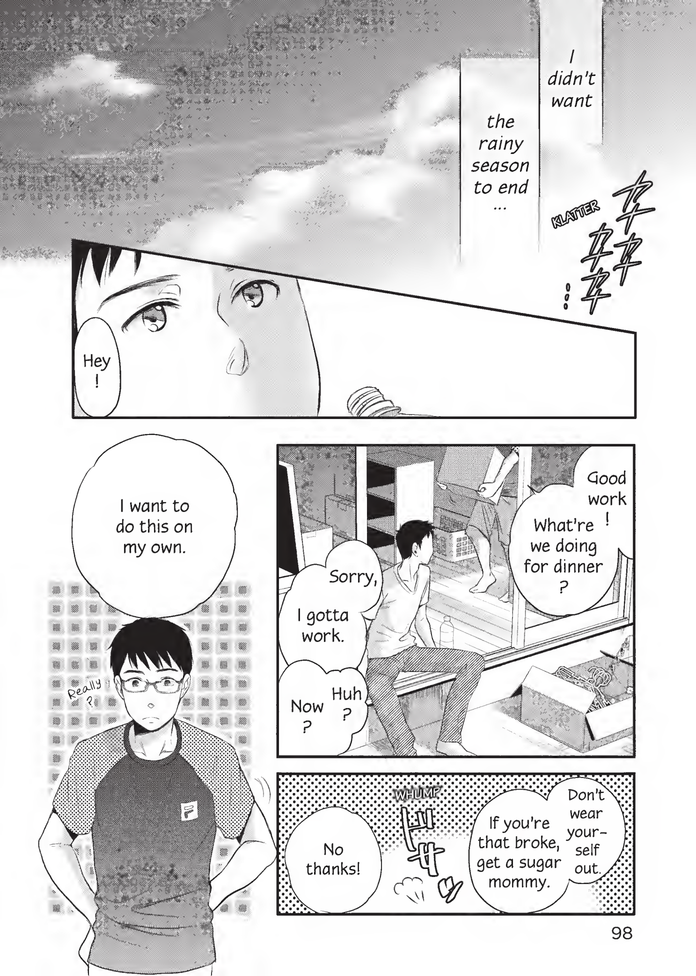

Not her job, her age
or her worries.
Not even her name.
Yet still ...
I can't help but be
drawn to her...

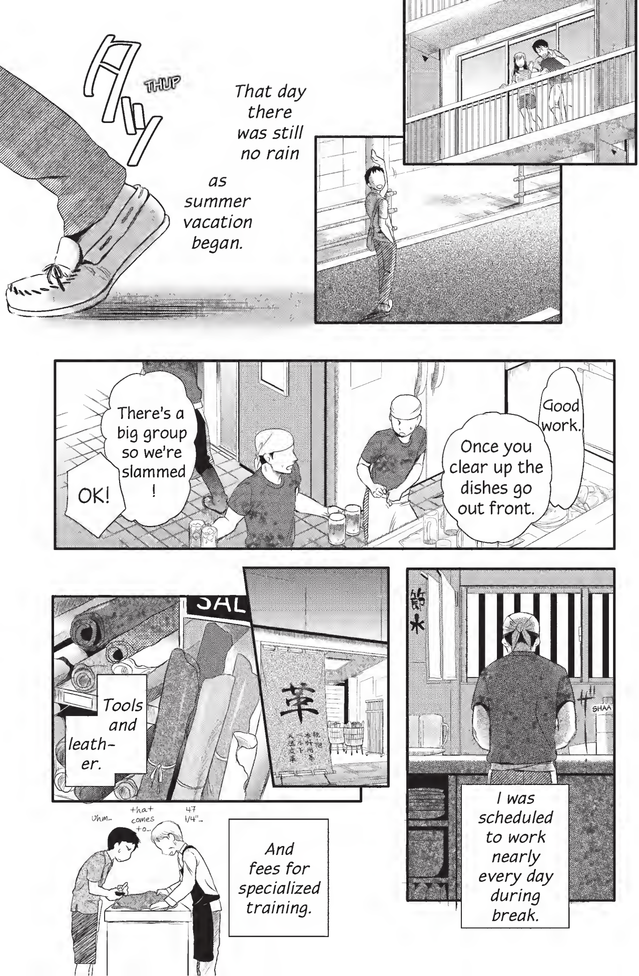
Chapter 4 “Westward Moon”

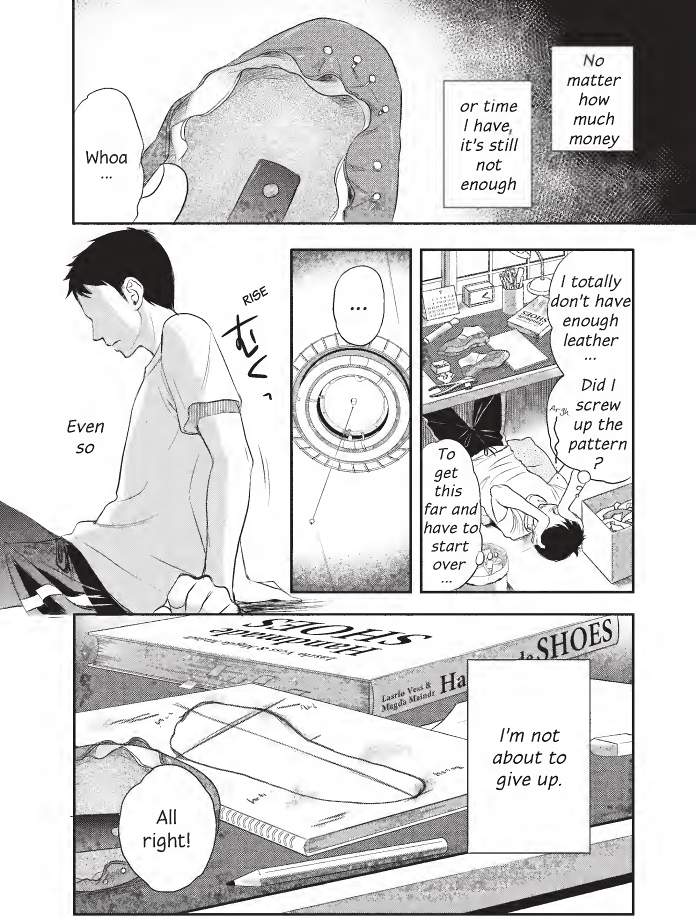

試作
2010.9～2011.12
Handm

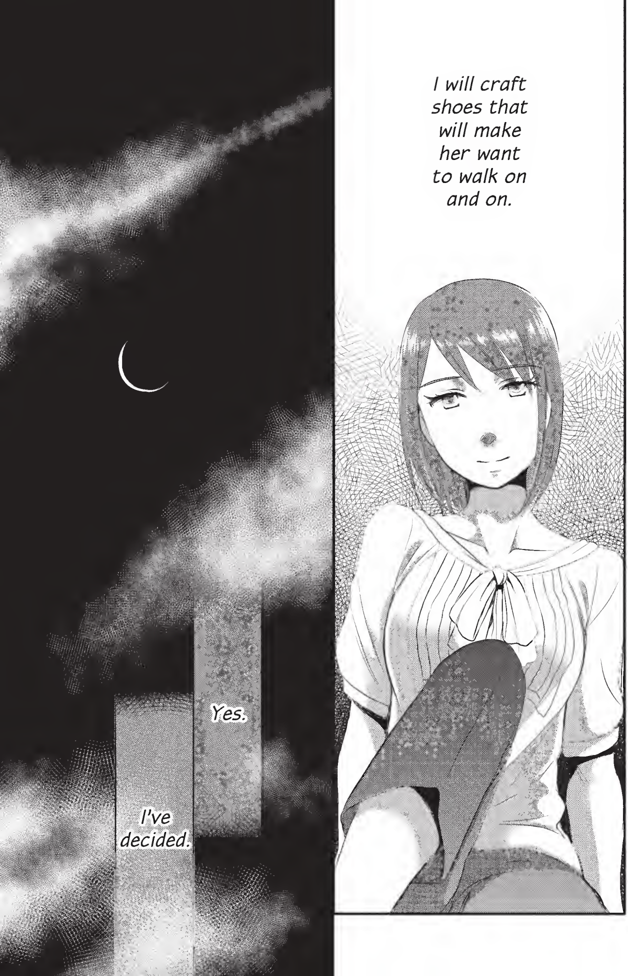

SHAA
Thanks.
I'll try to finish up those shoes.
Will you try them on when they're done?
...
Sure.
I wonder why.
I couldn't say no...
BREEN
BREEN
BREEN
BREEN
The meteorological agency announced that the rainy season ended 10 days earlier than
please be advised that heatstroke is a risk during mid-summer days ...

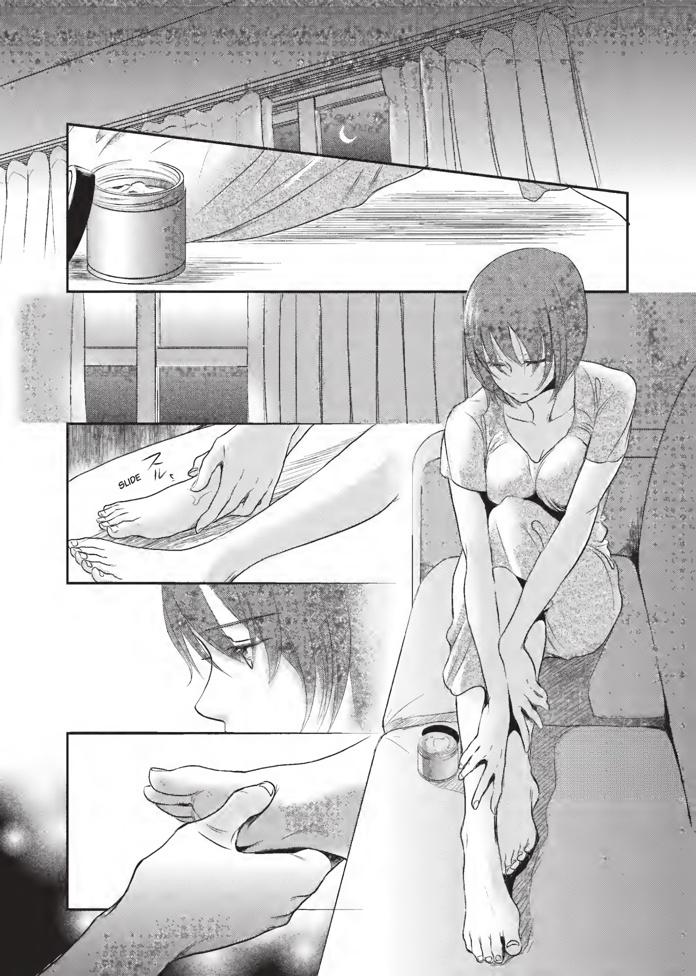

BREEN
BREEN
BREEN
Maybe it's for the best that he's run out of excuses to skip class...
Heh
And since then, it hasn't rained a drop.
STIR
But to tell the truth...

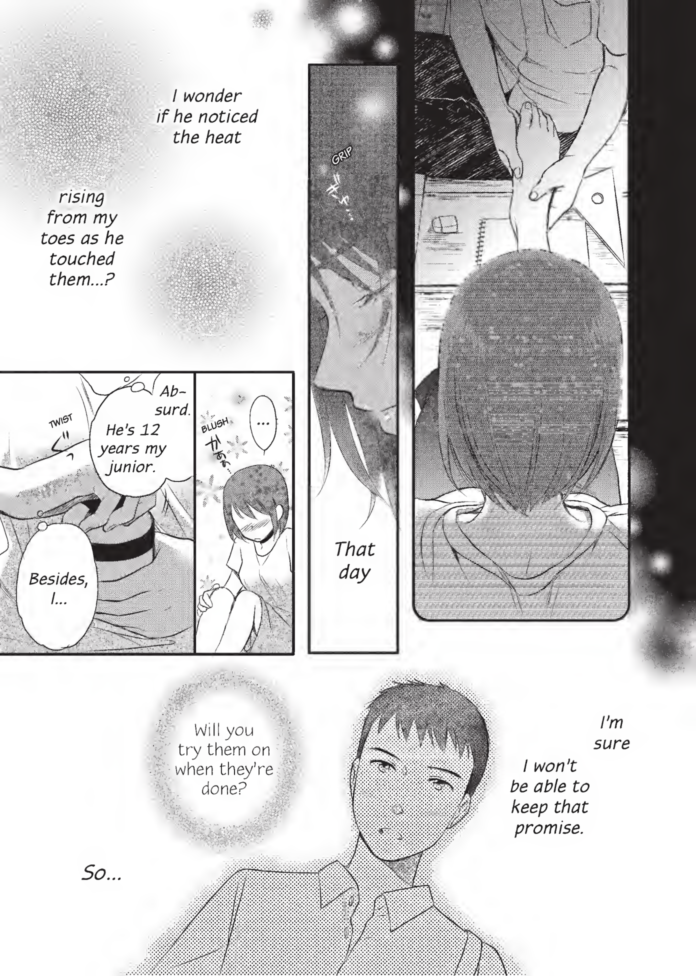

I didn't want the rainy season to end ...
KLATTER
Hey!
Good work! What're we doing for dinner?
Sorry, I gotta work.
Huh? Now?
Don't wear yourself out.
If you're that broke, get a sugar mommy.
WHUMP
No thanks!
I want to do this on my own.
Really?

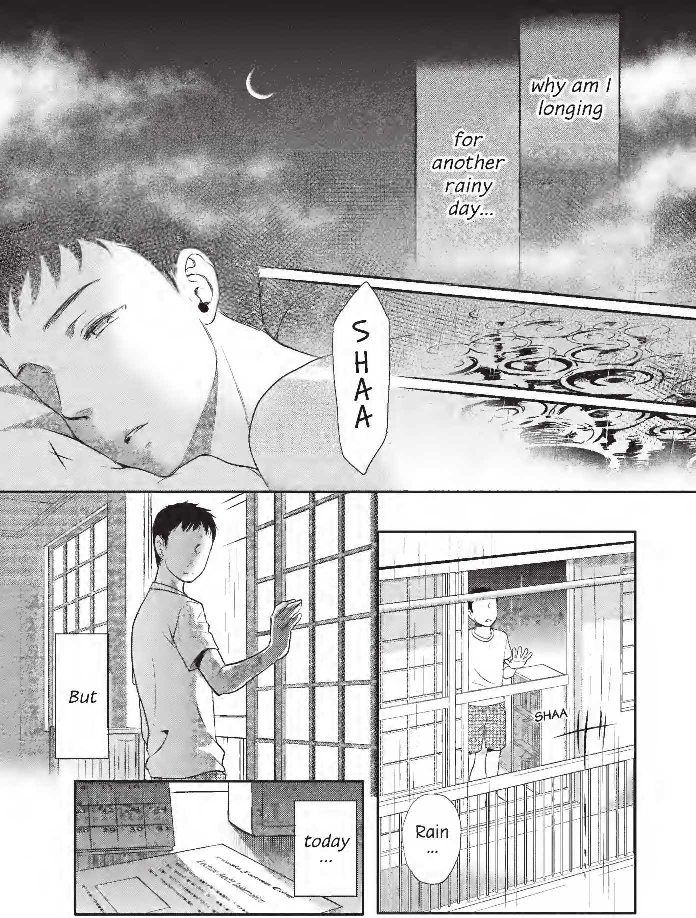

That day there was still no rain
as summer vacation began.
タッ
THUP
Good work.
Once you clear up the dishes go out front.
There's a big group so we're slammed!
OK!
節水
SHAA
I was scheduled to work nearly every day during break.
SAL
革
Tools and leather.
Uhm... that comes to...
47 1/4"...
And fees for specialized training.

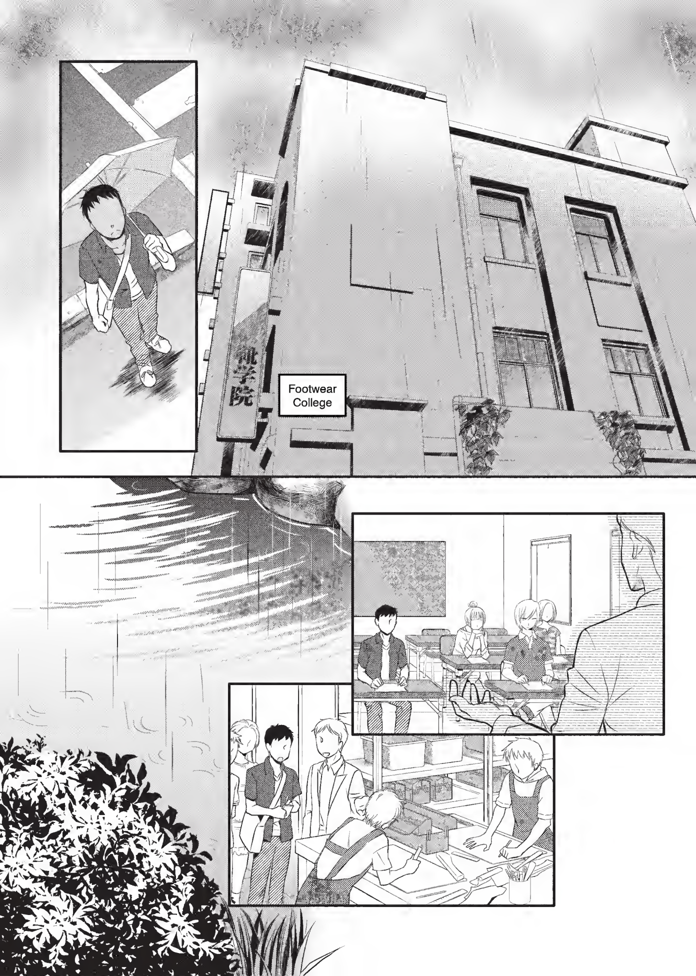

No matter how much money
or time I have, it's still not enough
Whoa ...
I totally don't have enough leather ...
Did I screw up the pattern ?
Argh
To get this far and have to start over ...
...
RISE
Even so
Handmade SHOES
Lasrlo Vess & Magda Maindr
I'm not about to give up.
All right!

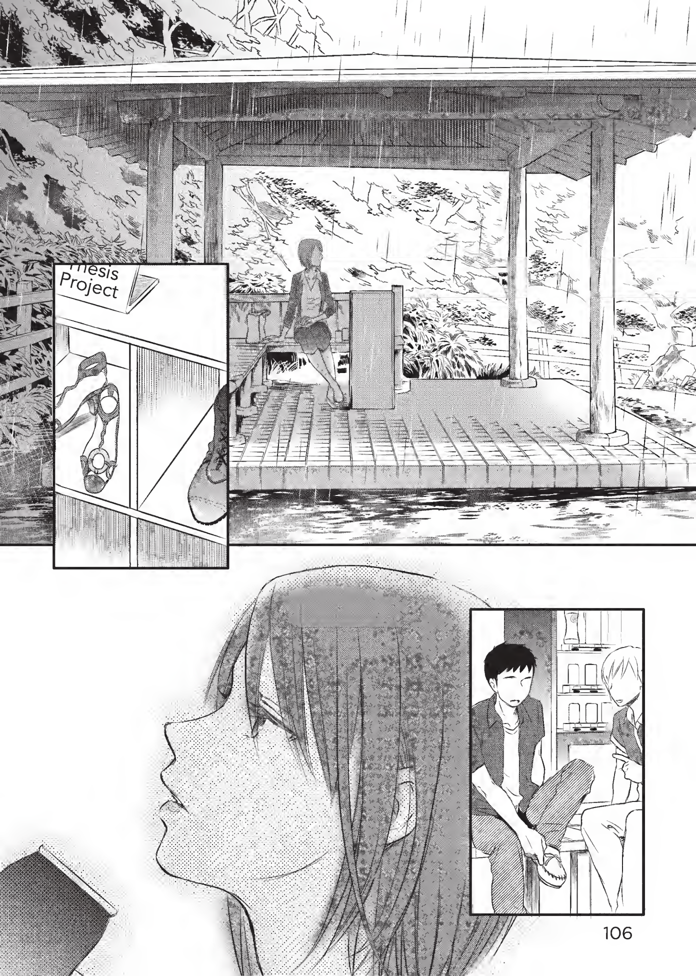

I will craft shoes that will make her want to walk on and on.
Yes.
I've decided.

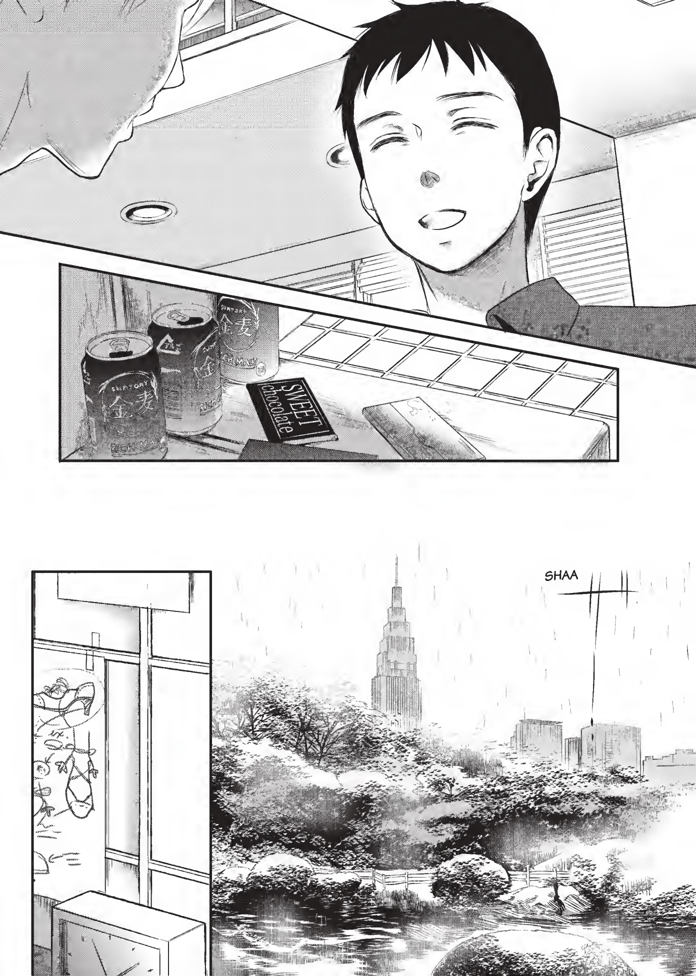

SLIDE
スルッ

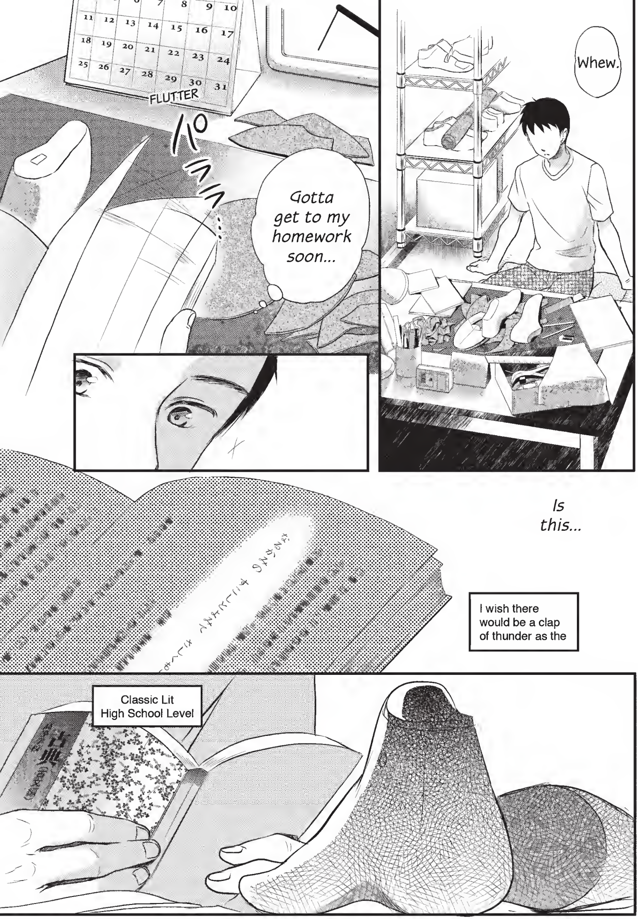

GRIP
I wonder if he noticed the heat
rising from my toes as he touched them...?
That day
BLUSH
...
Ab-surd.
He's 12 years my junior.
TWIST
Besides, I...
I'm sure
I won't be able to keep that promise.
Will you try them on when they're done?
So...

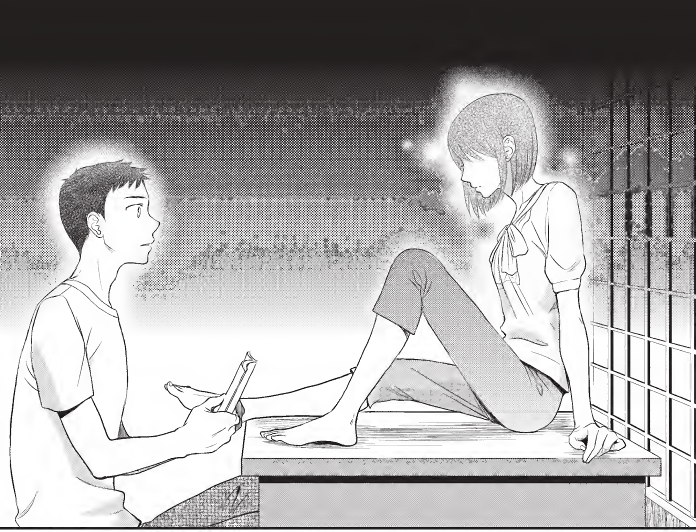

why am I longing
for another rainy day...
SHAA
But
today
...
Lecture Audit Information
Rain
...
SHAA


靴学院
Footwear College

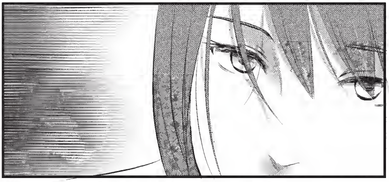

Thesis Project

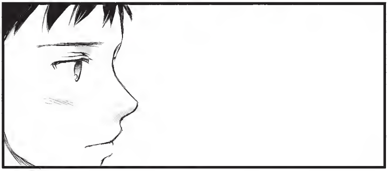

SUNTORY
金麦
RICH MALT
SWEET chocolate
SHAA

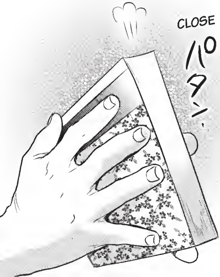

Whew.
FLUTTER
パラララ…
Gotta get to my homework soon...
Is this...
I wish there would be a clap of thunder as the
Classic Lit High School Level

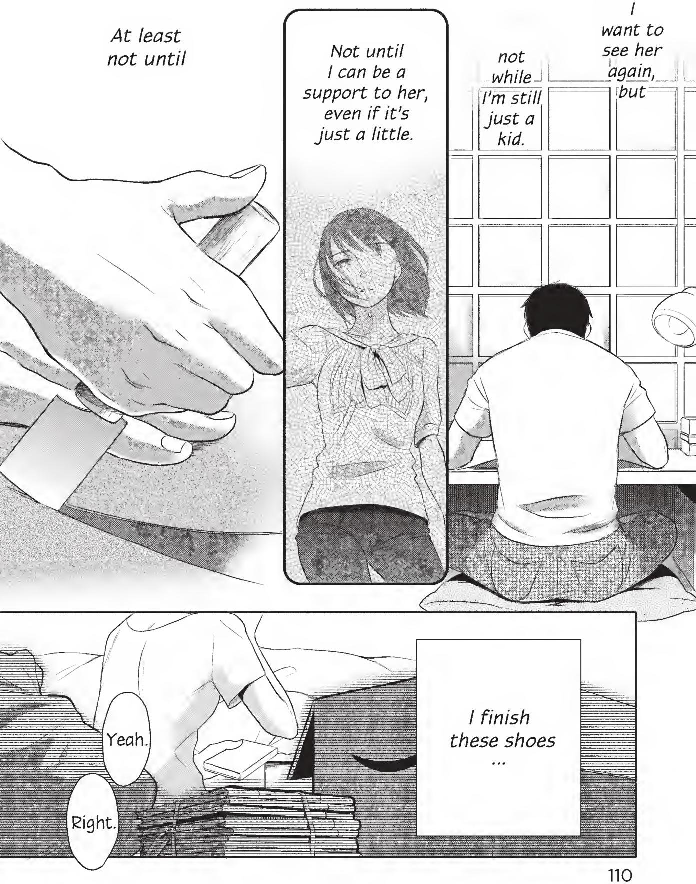


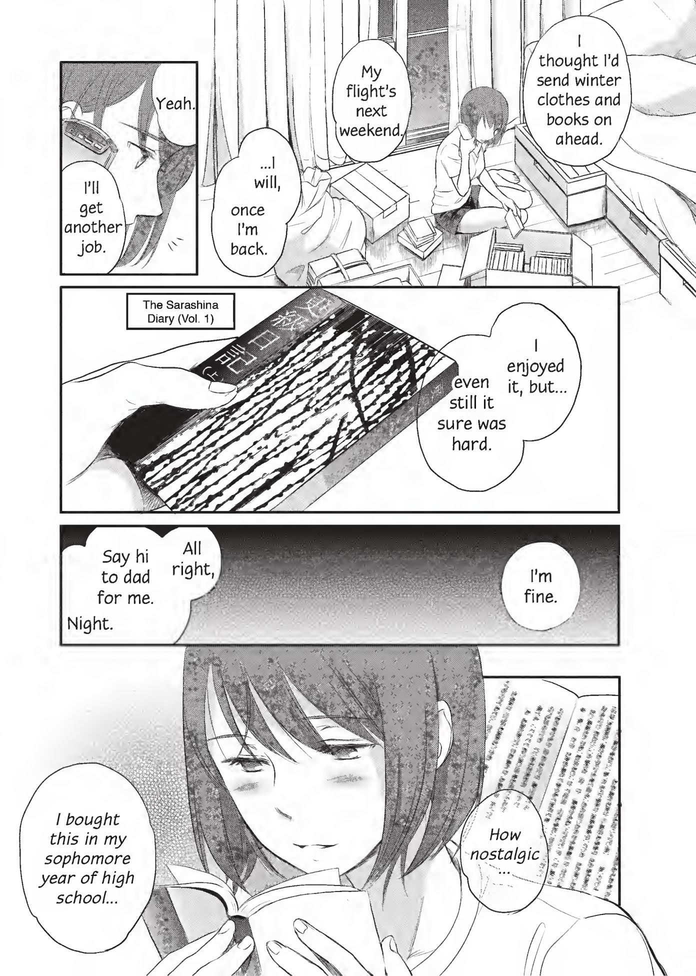
Thoughts of her come to mind unexpectedly, every day.

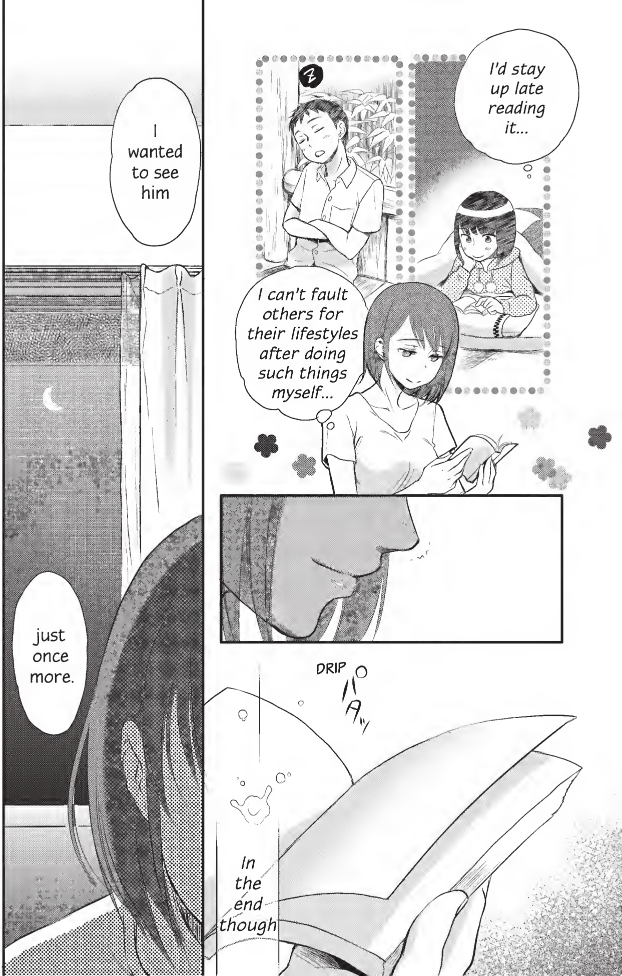


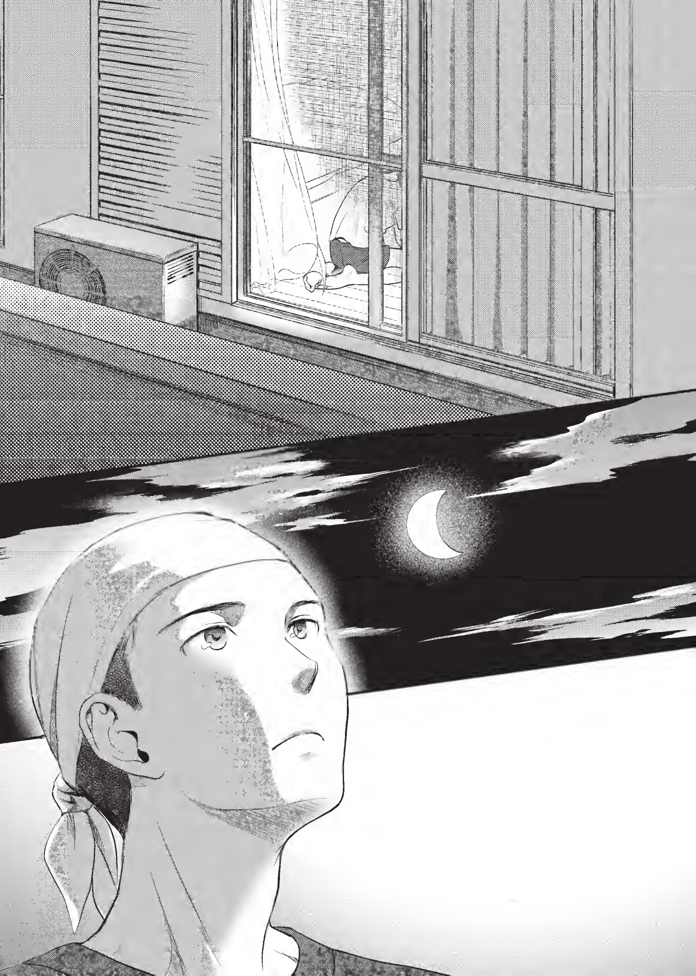


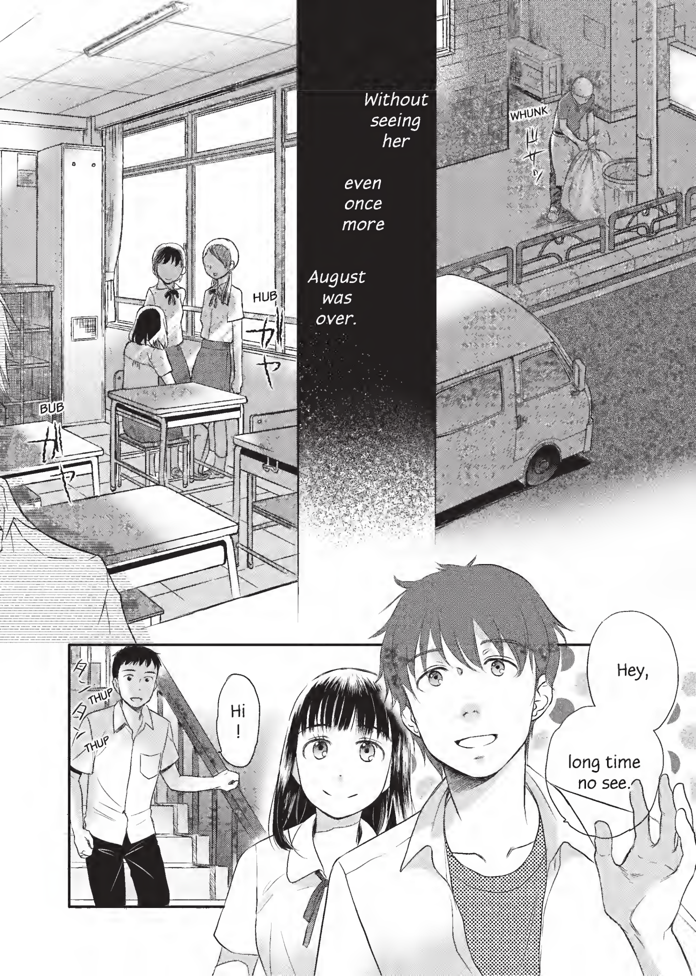


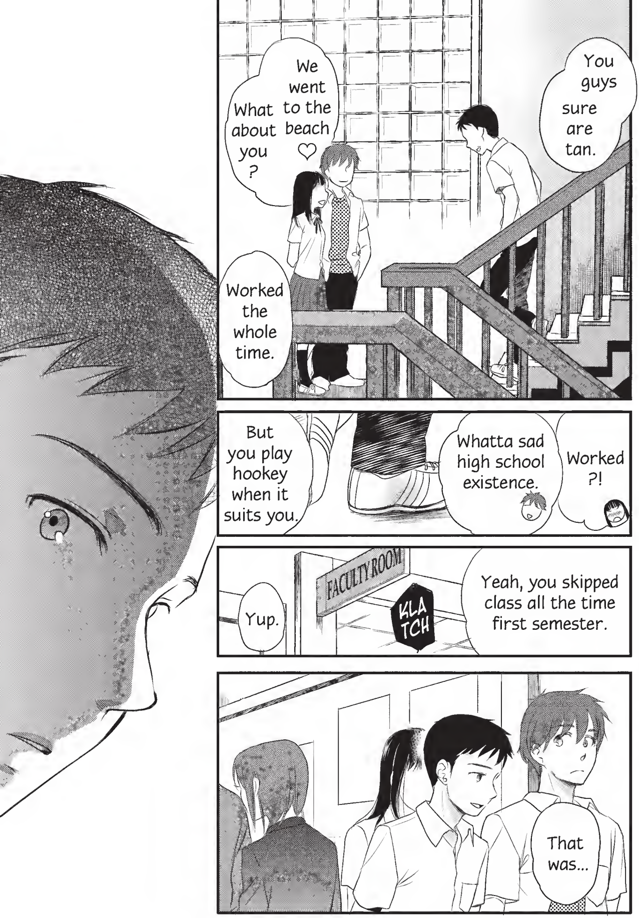

I want to see her again, but
not while I'm still just a kid.
Not until I can be a support to her, even if it's just a little.
At least not until
I finish these shoes ...
Yeah.
Right.

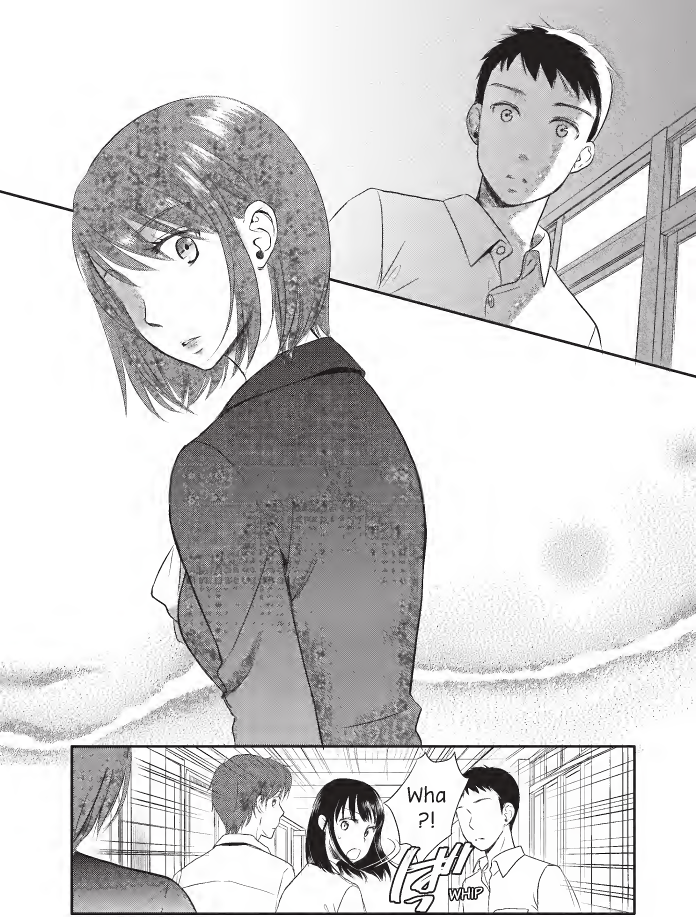

I thought I'd send winter clothes and books on ahead.
My flight's next weekend.
...I will, once I'm back.
Yeah.
I'll get another job.
The Sarashina Diary (Vol. 1)
更級日記 (上)
I enjoyed it, but...
even still it sure was hard.
I'm fine.
All right,
Say hi to dad for me.
Night.
How nostalgic...
I bought this in my sophomore year of high school...

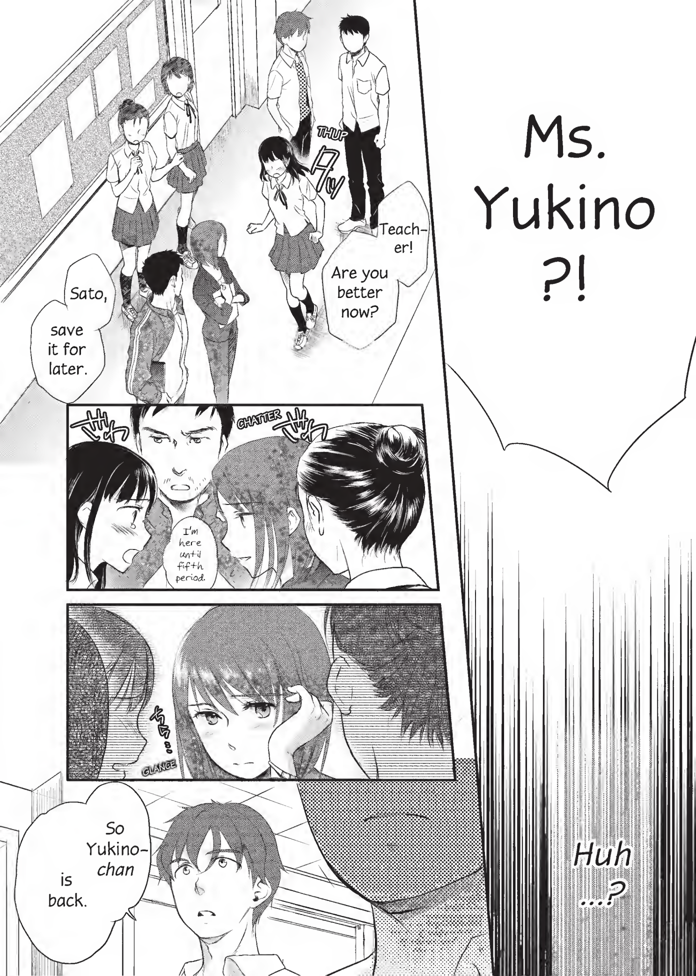

Z
I'd stay up late reading it...
I can't fault others for their lifestyles after doing such things myself...
DRIP
In the end though
I wanted to see him
just once more.

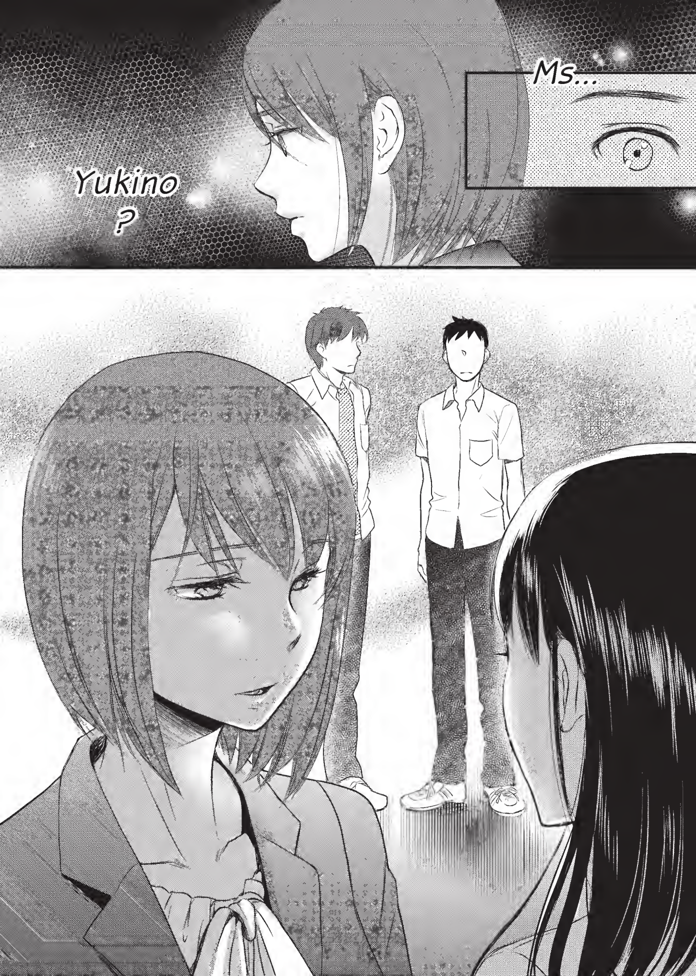



WHUNK
ドサッ
Without seeing her
even once more
August was over.
HUB
ガヤ
BUB
ガヤ
Hey,
long time no see.
Hi!
タン
THUP
タン
THUP

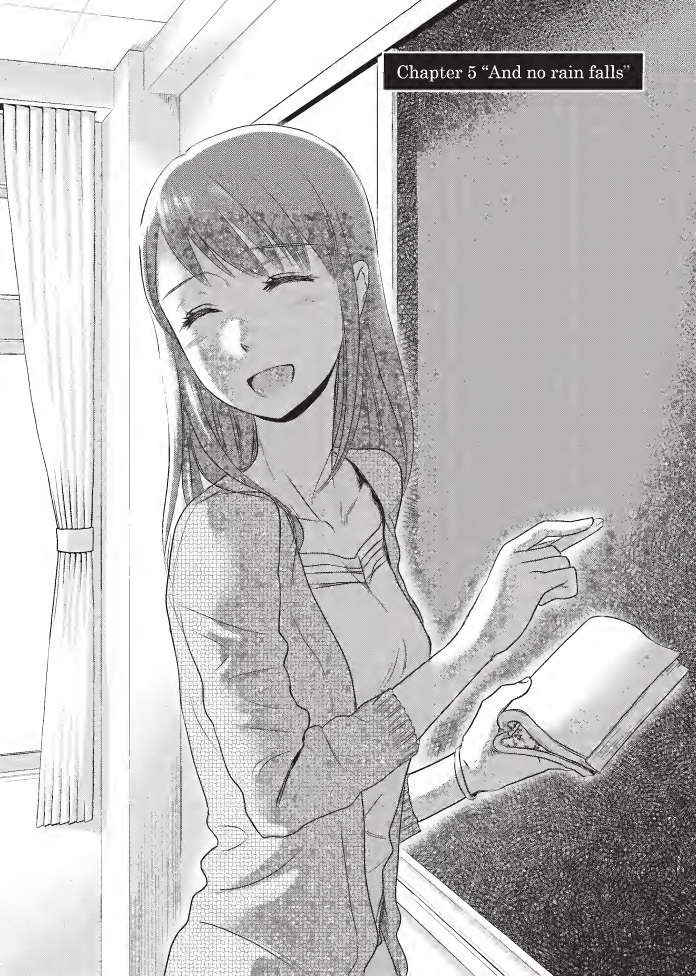

You guys sure are tan.
We went to the beach ♡
What about you?
Worked the whole time.
Worked?!
Whatta sad high school existence.
But you play hookey when it suits you.
Yeah, you skipped class all the time first semester.
KLATCH
FACULTY ROOM
Yup.
That was...

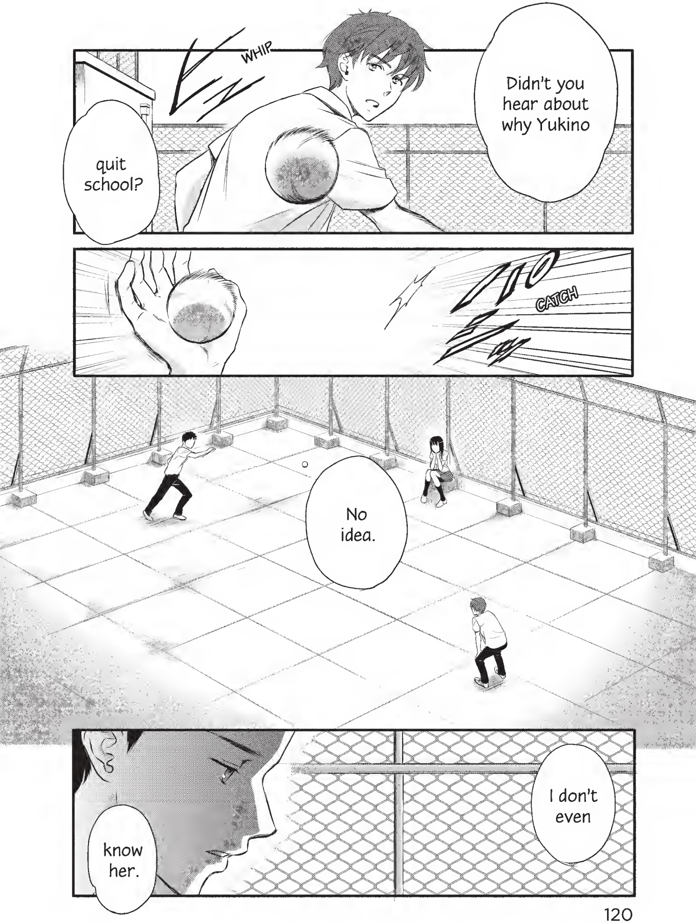

Wha ?!
WHIP

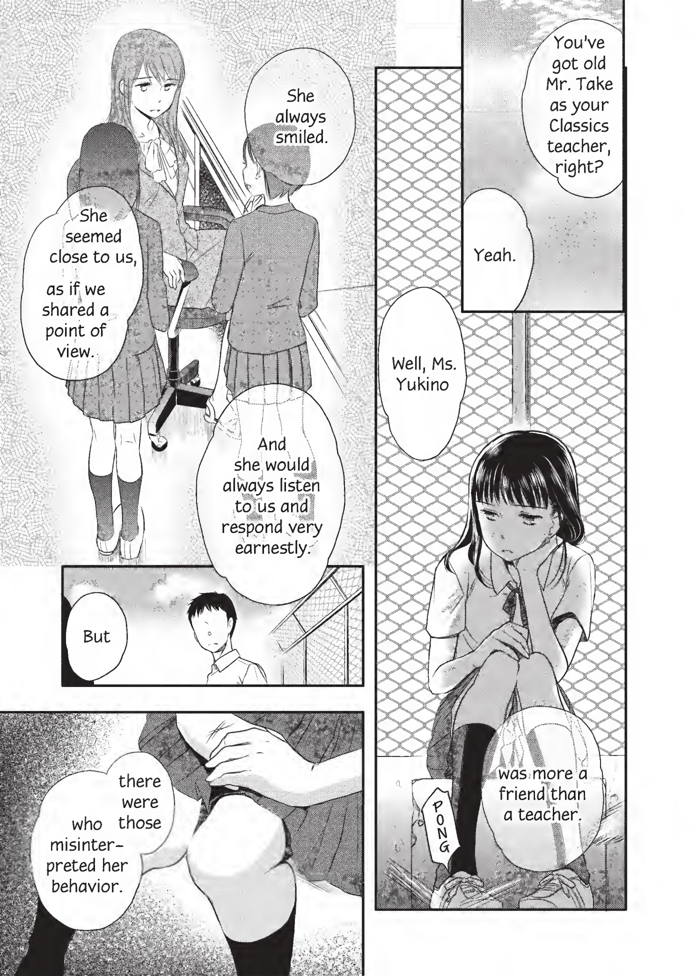

Ms. Yukino ?!
THUP
タッ
Teacher!
Are you better now?
Sato, save it for later.
CHATTER
ざわ
ざわ
I'm here until fifth period.
ちら…
GLANCE
So Yukino-chan is back.
Huh …?

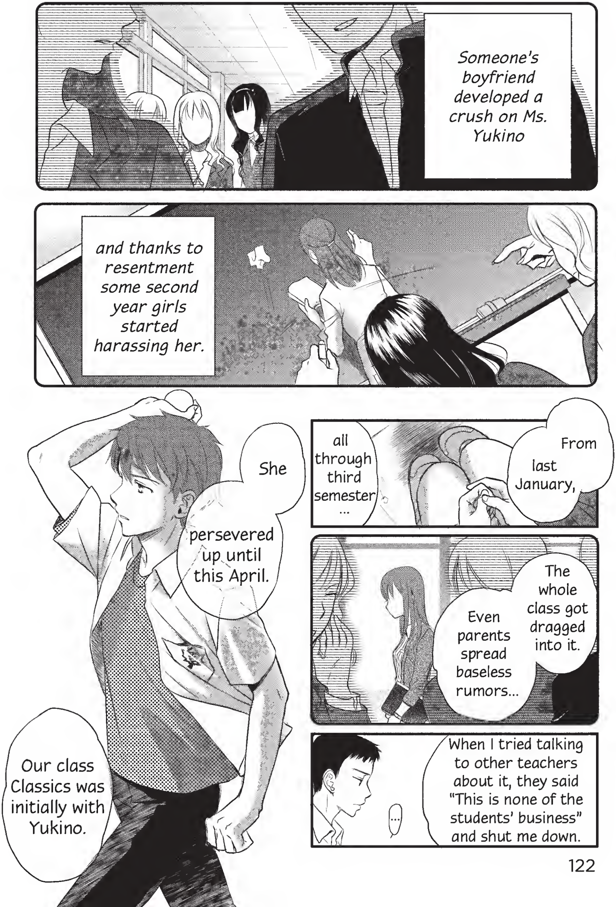

Ms...
Yukino ?

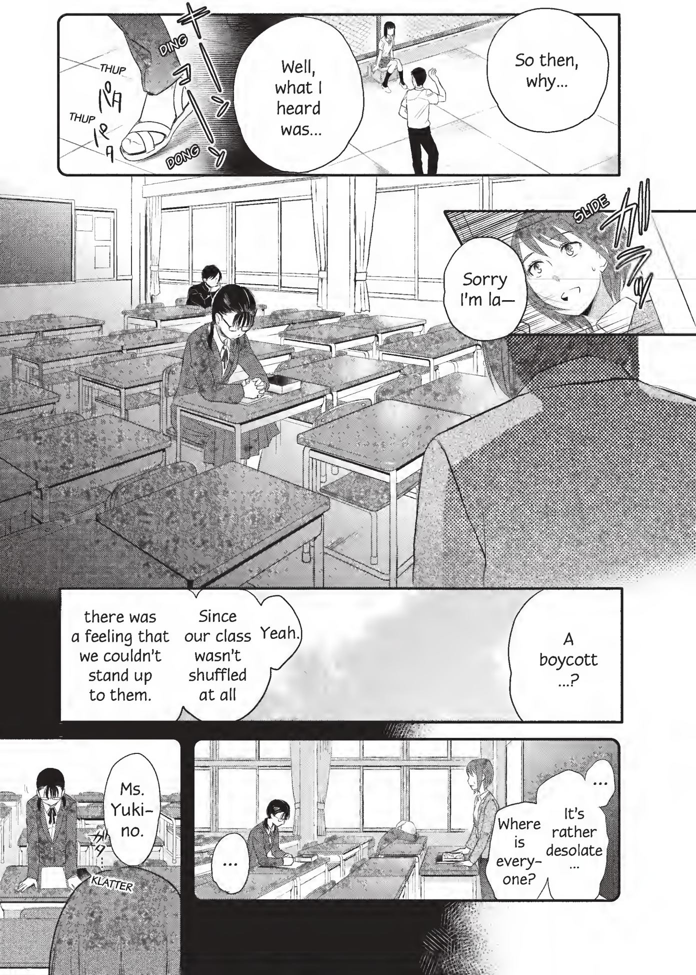
Chapter 5 “And no rain falls”

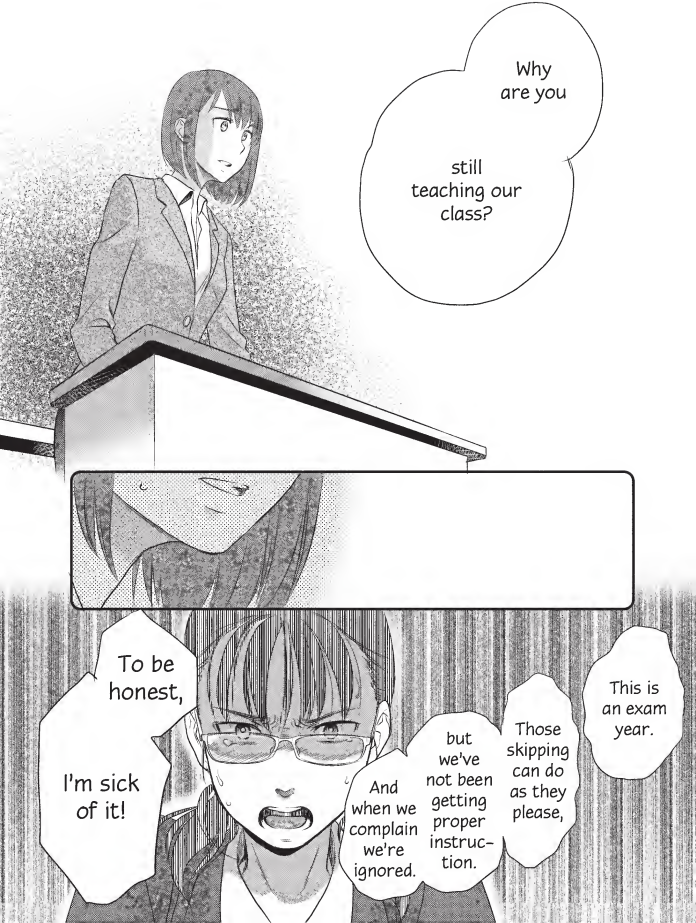


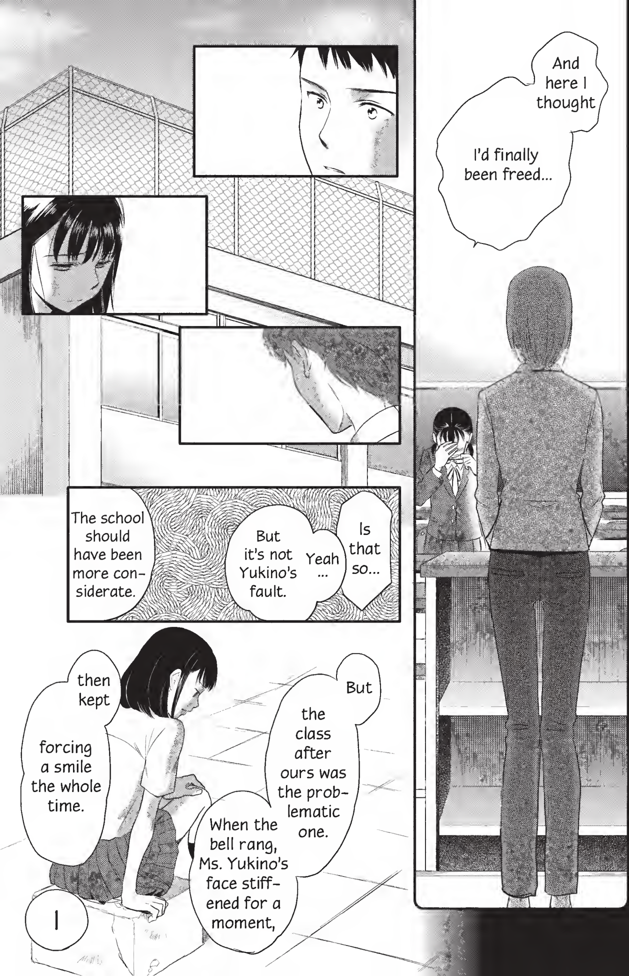

WHIP
Didn't you hear about why Yukino
quit school?
CATCH
No idea.
I don't even
know her.

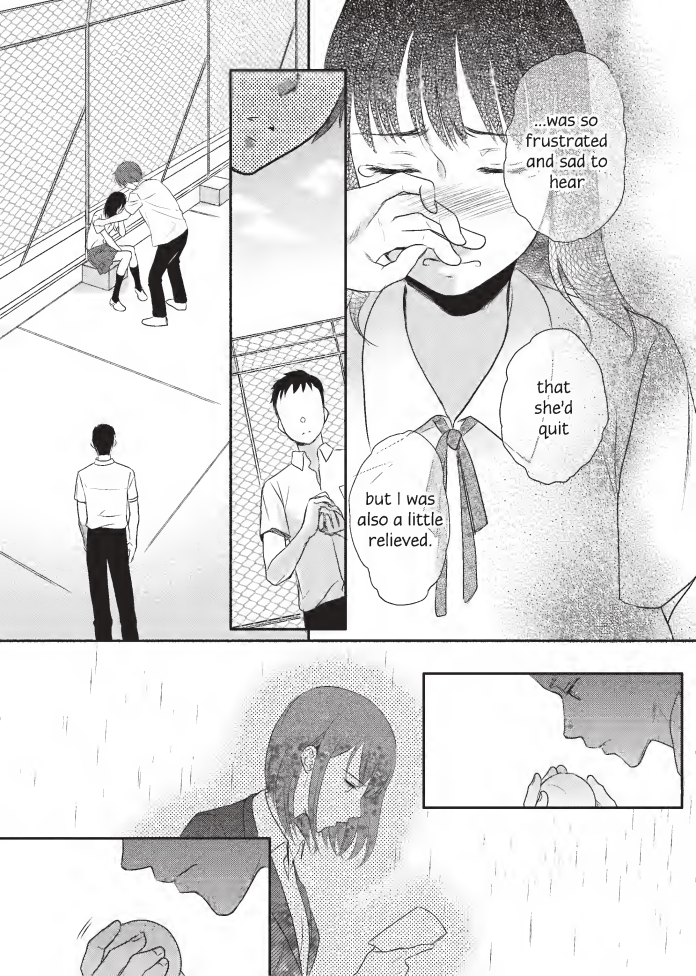

You've got old Mr. Take as your Classics teacher, right?
Yeah.
Well, Ms. Yukino
was more a friend than a teacher.
PONG
She always smiled.
She seemed close to us,
as if we shared a point of view.
And she would always listen to us and respond very earnestly.
But
there were those who misinterpreted her behavior.

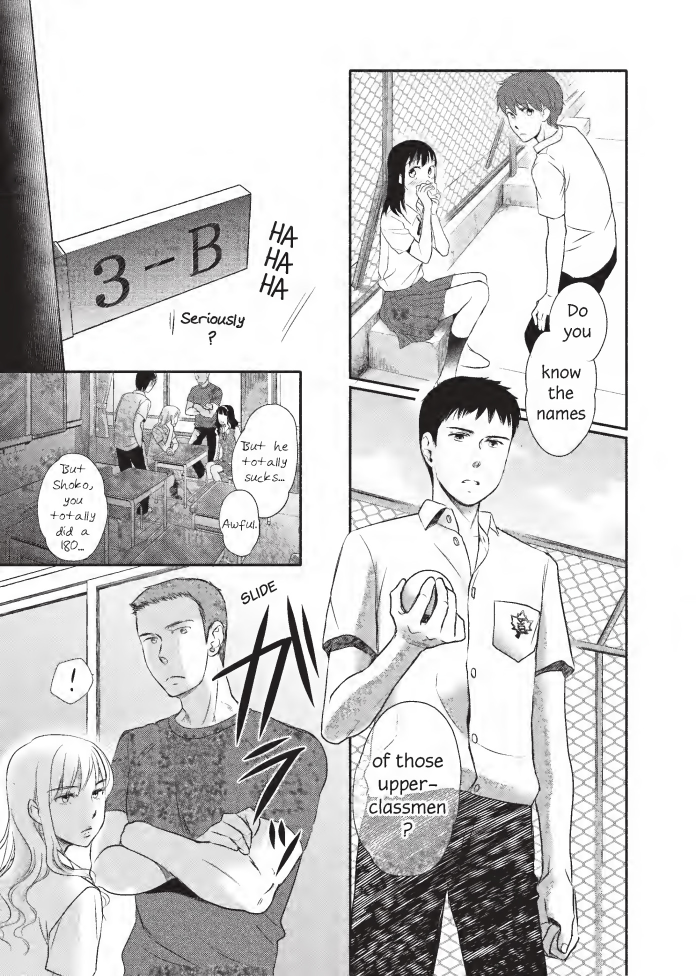

Someone's boyfriend developed a crush on Ms. Yukino
and thanks to resentment some second year girls started harassing her.
From last January,
all through third semester ...
The whole class got dragged into it.
Even parents spread baseless rumors...
When I tried talking to other teachers about it, they said "This is none of the students' business" and shut me down.
...
She
persevered up until this April.
Our class Classics was initially with Yukino.

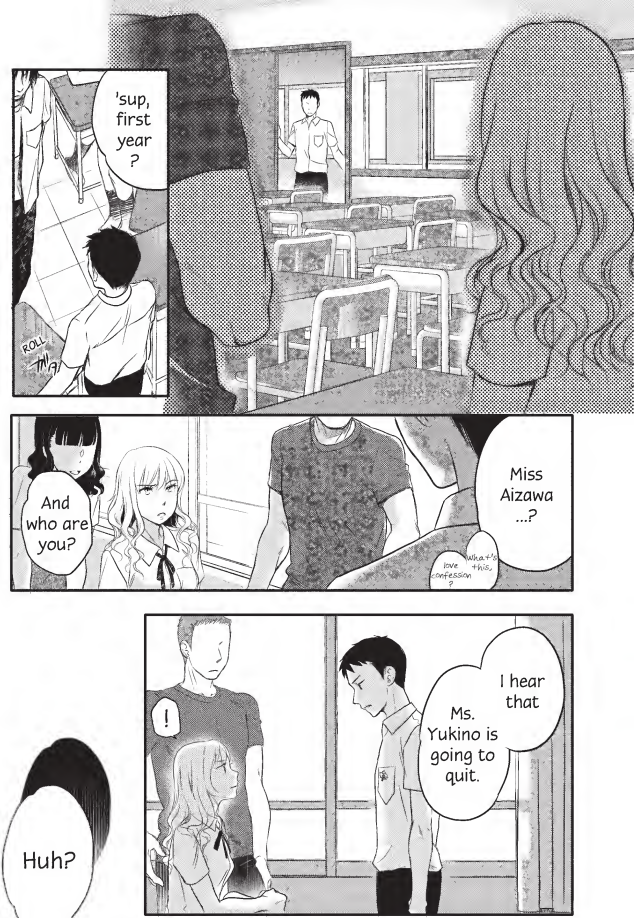

So then, why...
Well, what I heard was...
キーンコーン
DING
DONG
パタパタ
THUP
THUP
ガラッ
SLIDE
Sorry I'm la—
A boycott ...?
Yeah.
Since our class wasn't shuffled at all
there was a feeling that we couldn't stand up to them.
...
It's rather desolate ...
Where is every-one?
...
Ms. Yuki-no.
ガタ
KLATTER

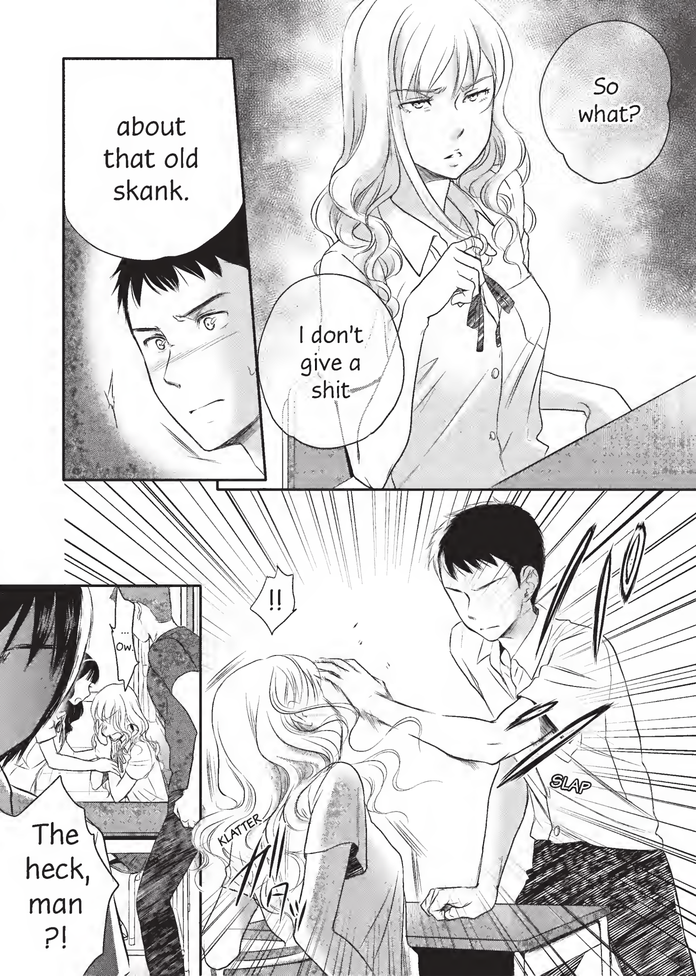

Why are you still teaching our class?
This is an exam year.
Those skipping can do as they please,
but we've not been getting proper instruction.
And when we complain we're ignored.
To be honest, I'm sick of it!

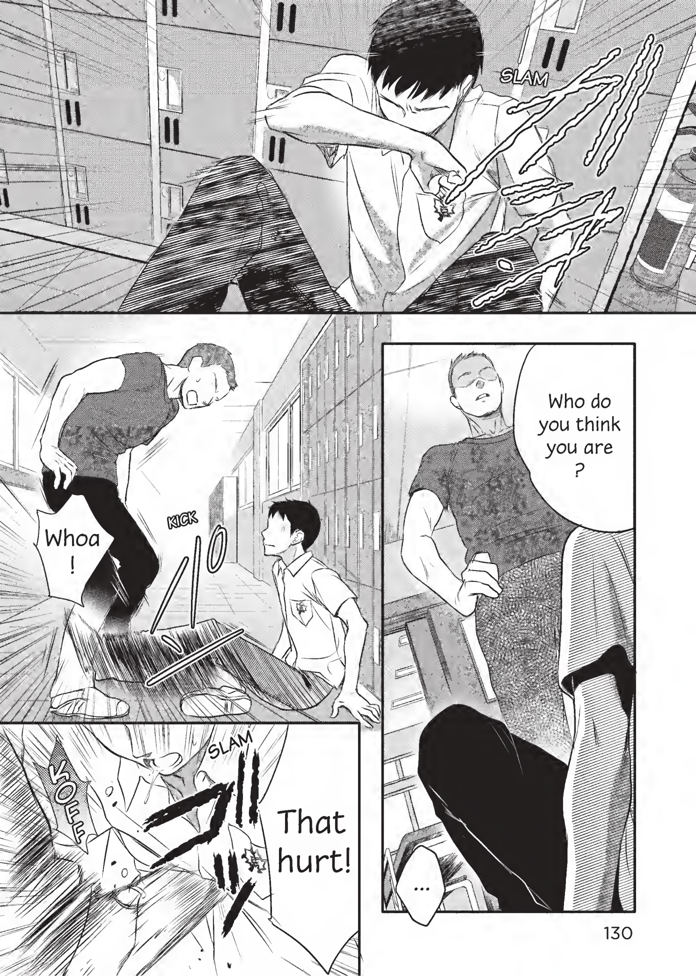

And here I thought I'd finally been freed...
Is that so...
Yeah...
But it's not Yukino's fault.
The school should have been more considerate.
But the class after ours was the problematic one.
When the bell rang, Ms. Yukino's face stiffened for a moment,
then kept forcing a smile the whole time.
1

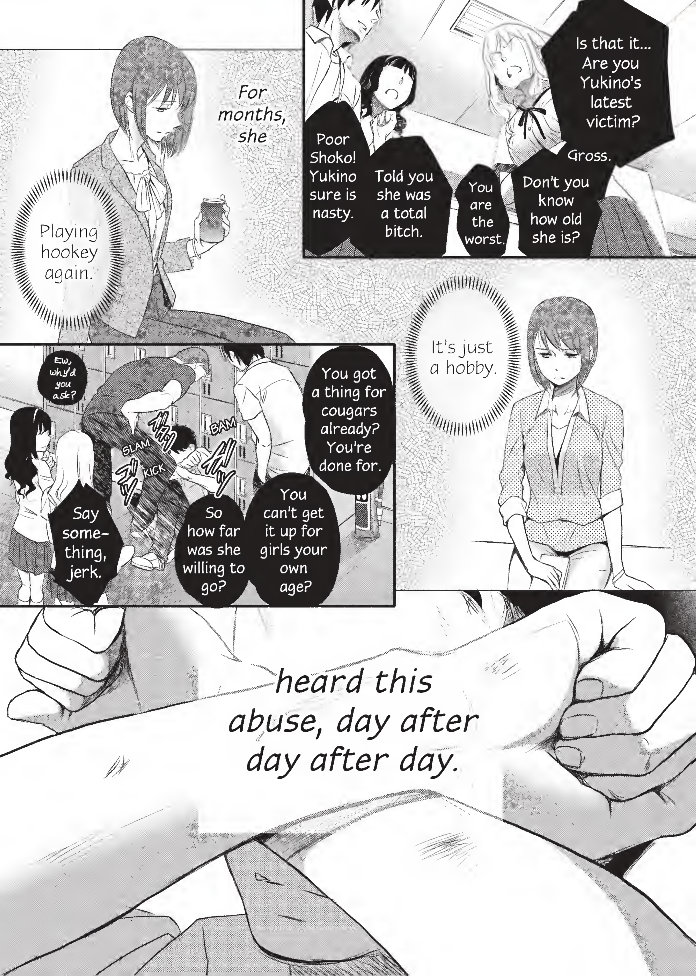

...was so frustrated and sad to hear
that she'd quit
but I was also a little relieved.

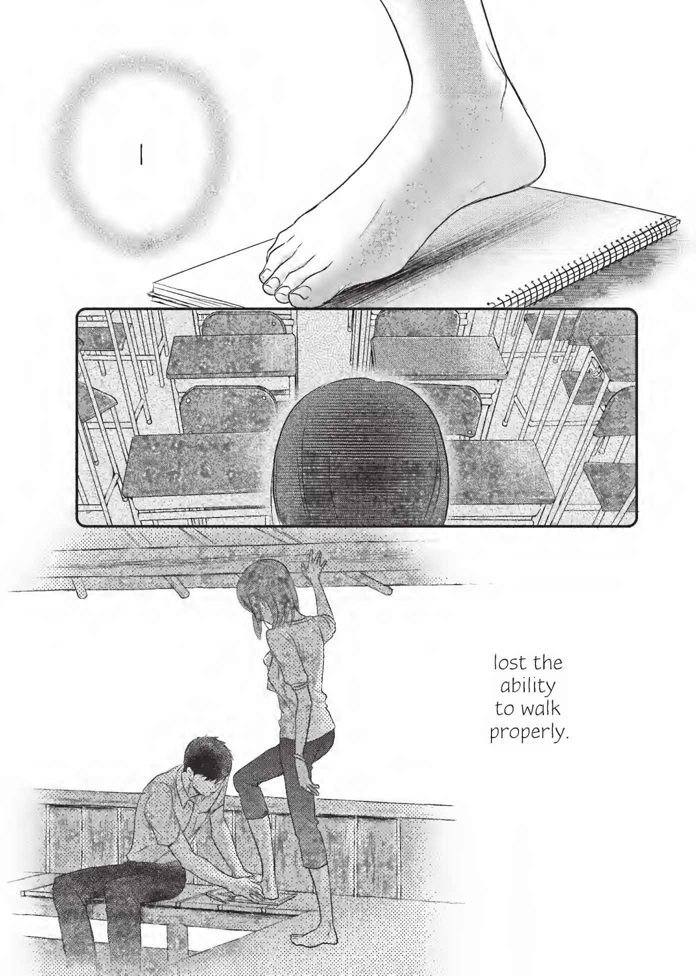

Do you
know the names
of those upper-classmen?
3-B
HA HA HA
Seriously?
But he totally sucks...
Awful.
But Shoko, you totally did a 180...
SLIDE
!

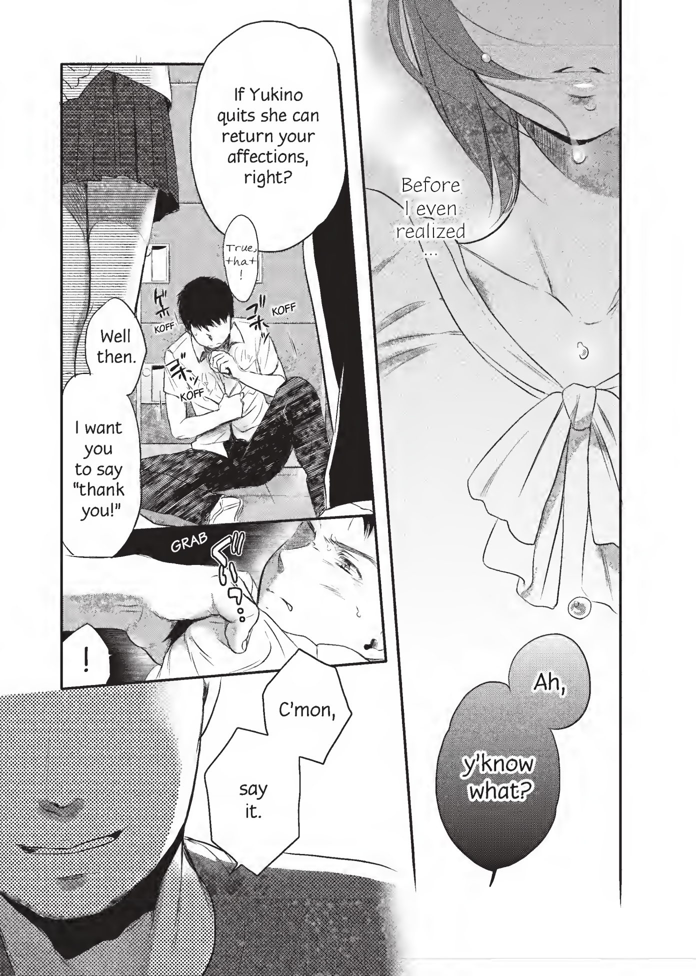

'sup, first year?
ROLL
Miss Aizawa ...?
What's this, love confession?
And who are you?
I hear that Ms. Yukino is going to quit.
!
Huh?

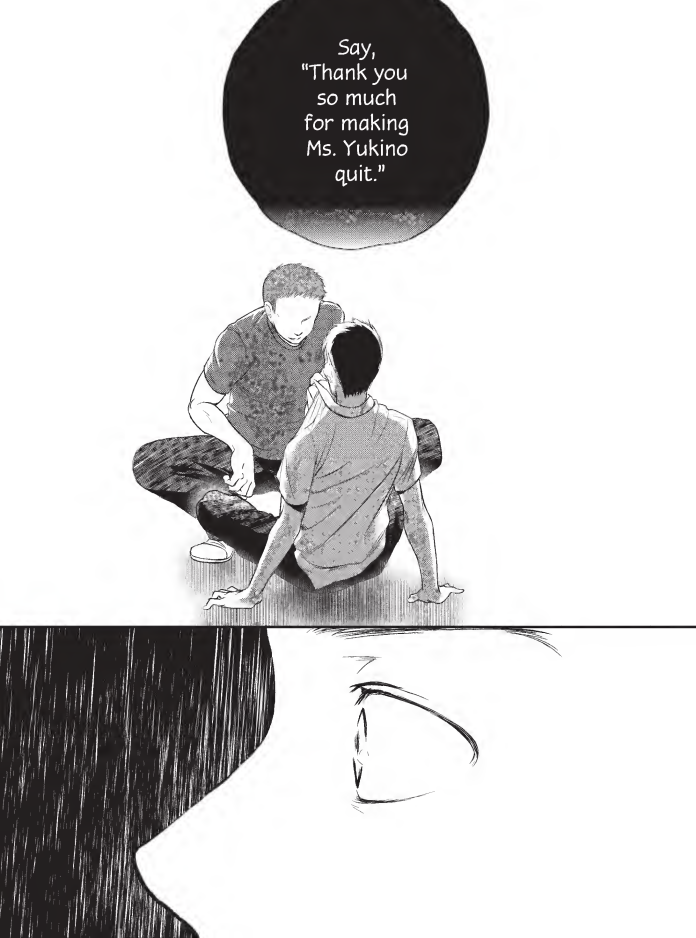

So what?
I don't give a shit
about that old skank.
!!
SLAP
KLATTER
... Ow.
The heck, man?!

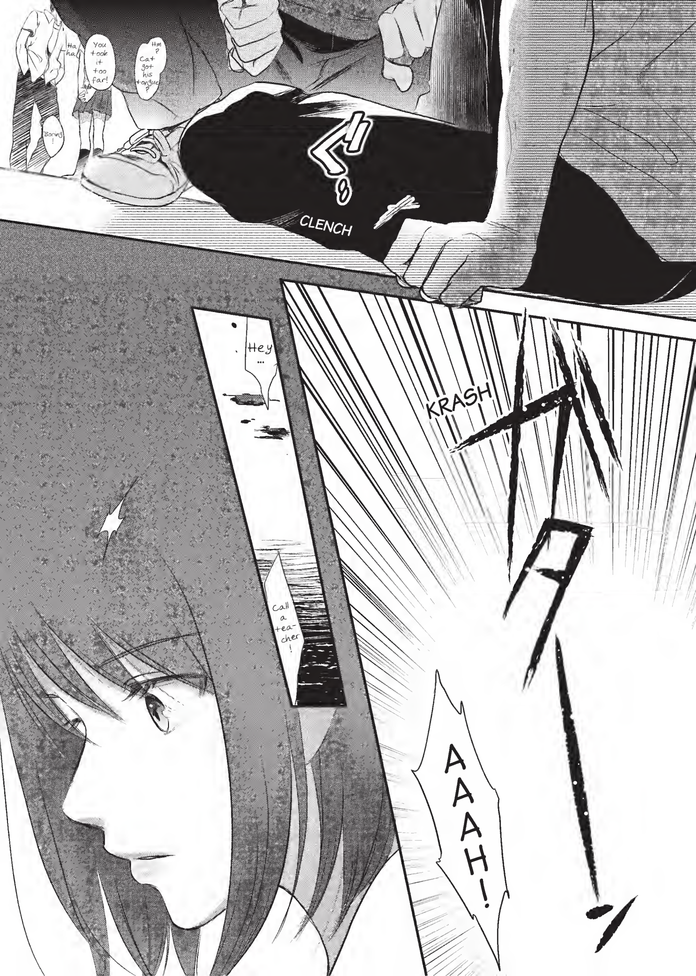

SLAM
Who do you think you are?
...
KICK
Whoa!
SLAM
KOFF
That hurt!

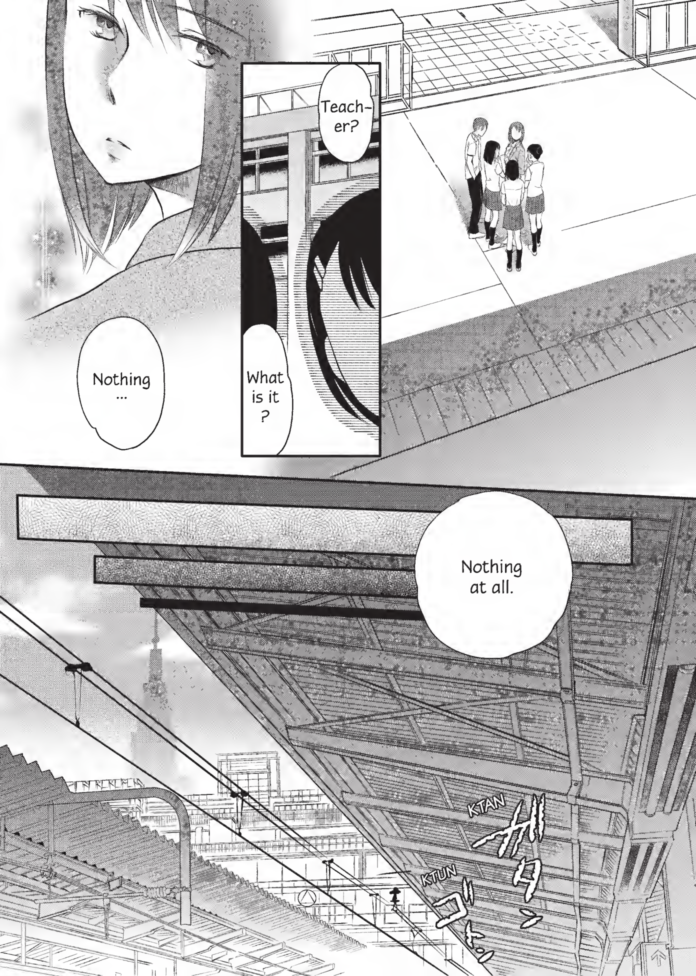

Is that it... Are you Yukino's latest victim?
Gross.
Don't you know how old she is?
You are the worst.
Told you she was a total bitch.
Poor Shoko! Yukino sure is nasty.
For months, she
Playing hookey again.
It's just a hobby.
You got a thing for cougars already? You're done for.
You can't get it up for girls your own age?
So how far was she willing to go?
BAM
SLAM
KICK
Say some-thing, jerk.
Ew, why'd you ask?
heard this abuse, day after day after day.

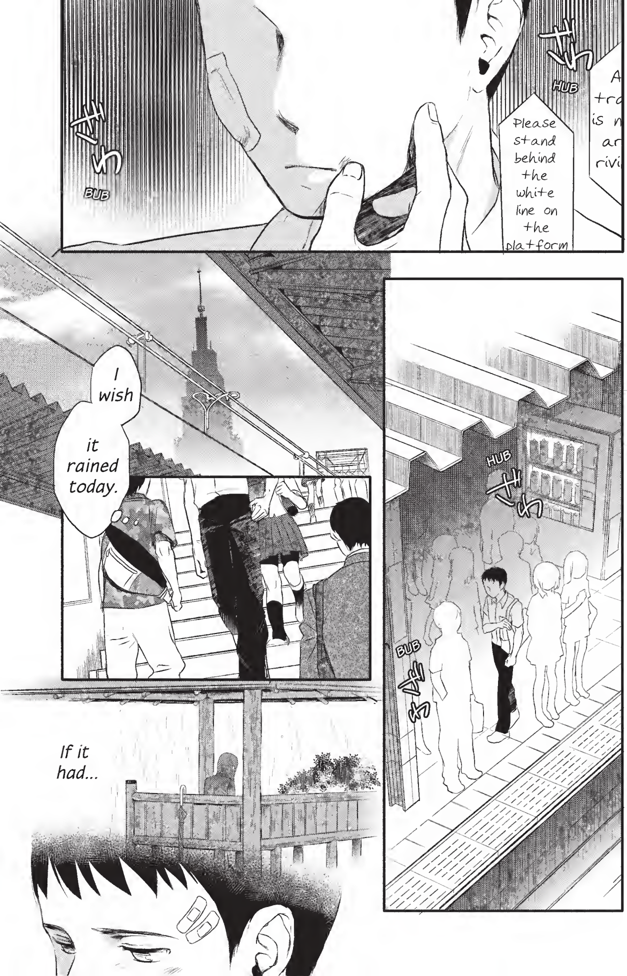

I
lost the ability to walk properly.

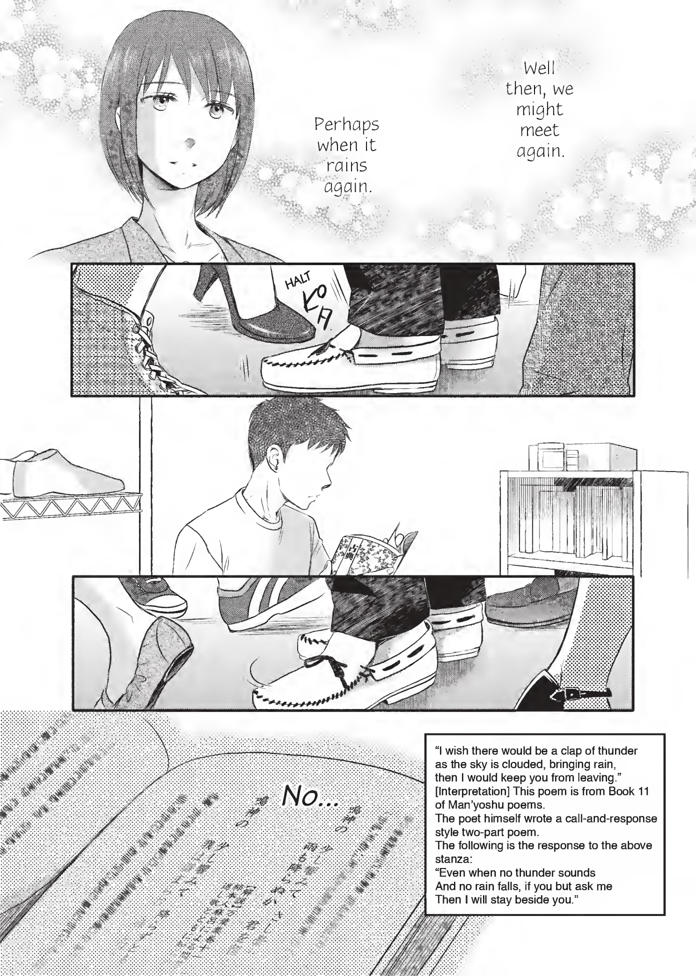

Before I even realized...
Ah,
y'know what?
If Yukino quits she can return your affections, right?
True, that!
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
Well then.
I want you to say "thank you!"
GRAB
!
C'mon,
say it.


Say, "Thank you so much for making Ms. Yukino quit."

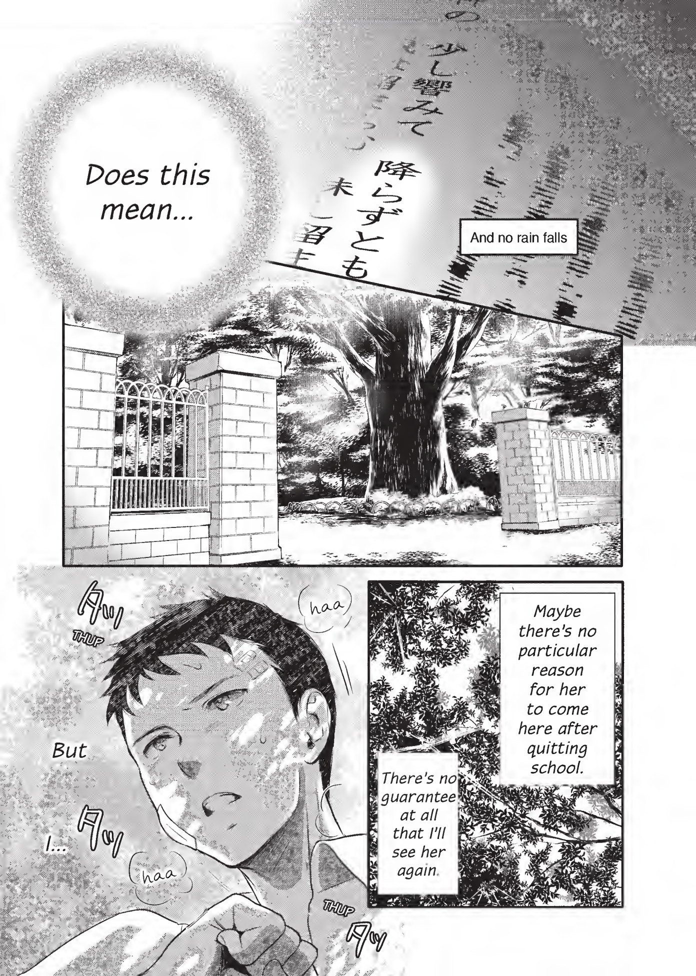

Hm? Cat got his tongue?
You took it too far!
Ha ha
Boring!
CLENCH
KRASH
AAAH!
Hey...
Call a teacher!

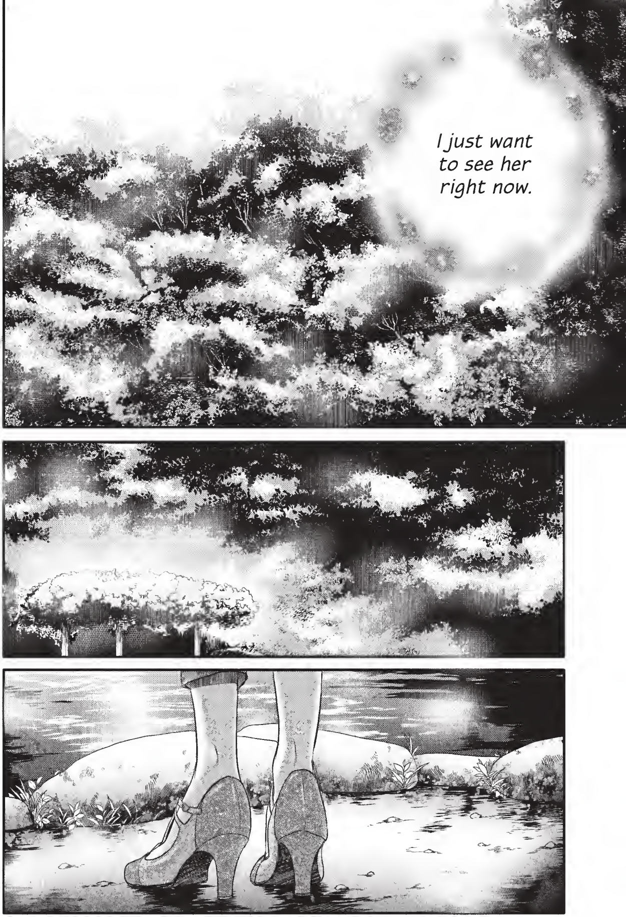

Teacher?
What is it?
Nothing...
Nothing at all.
KTAN
KTUN

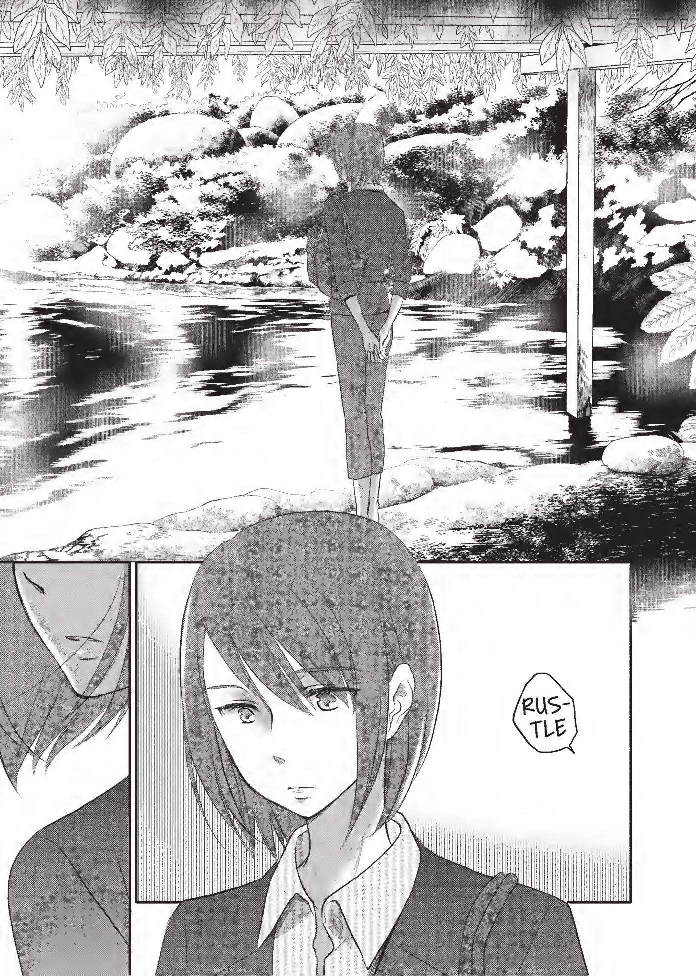

ざわ
HUB
A tra
is n
ar
rivi
Please stand behind the white line on the platform
ざわ
BUB
HUB
ざわ
BUB
ざわ
I wish it rained today.
If it had...

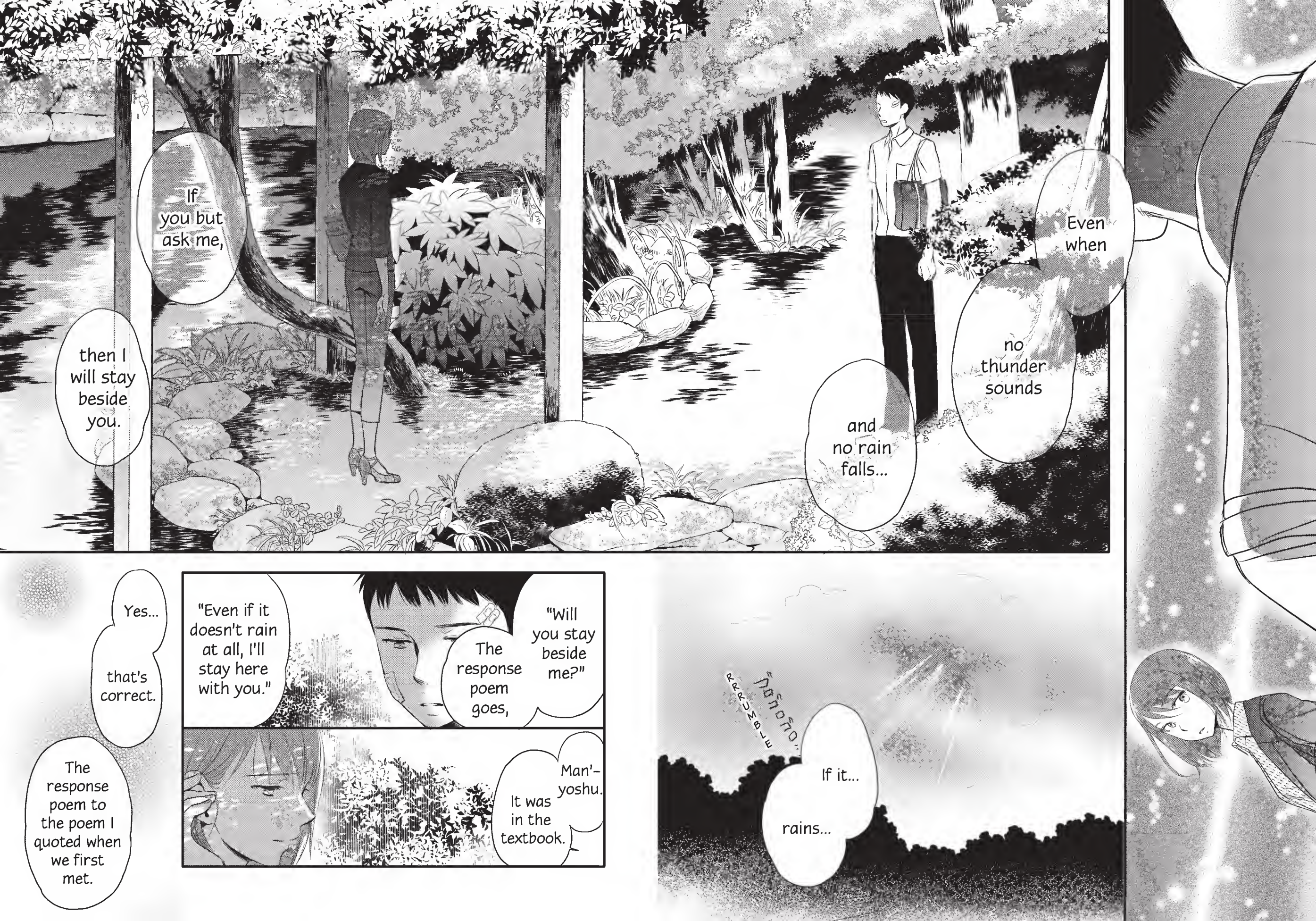

Well then, we might meet again.
Perhaps when it rains again.
HALT
ピタ
No...
鳴神の 少し響みて さし
雨も降らぬか 君を
鳴神の
少し
【解説】万葉集

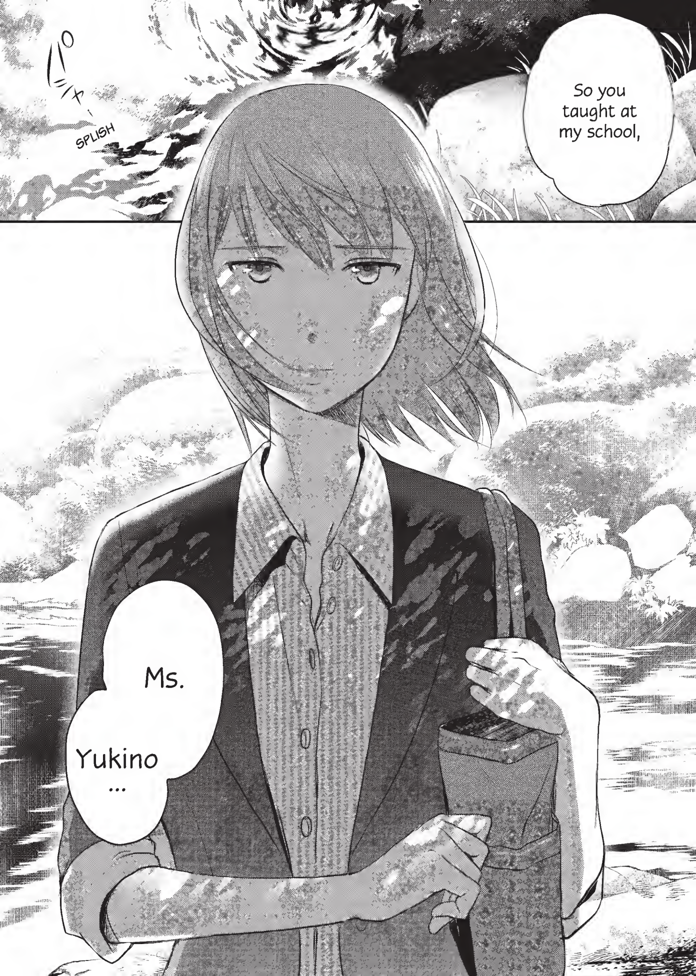
"I wish there would be a clap of thunder
as the sky is clouded, bringing rain,
then I would keep you from leaving."
[Interpretation] This poem is from Book 11 of Man'yoshu poems.
The poet himself wrote a call-and-response style two-part poem.
The following is the response to the above stanza:
"Even when no thunder sounds
And no rain falls, if you but ask me
Then I will stay beside you."

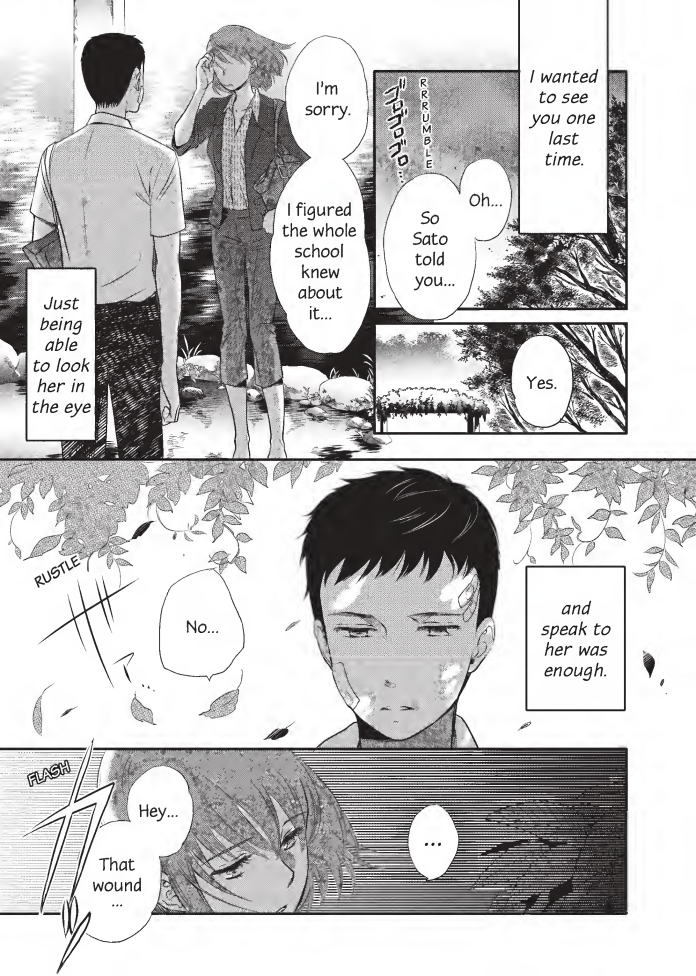

少し響みて
降らずとも
And no rain falls
Does this mean...
Maybe there's no particular reason for her to come here after quitting school.
There's no guarantee at all that I'll see her again.
haa
タッ
THUP
But
タッ
I...
haa
THUP
タッ


I just want to see her right now.

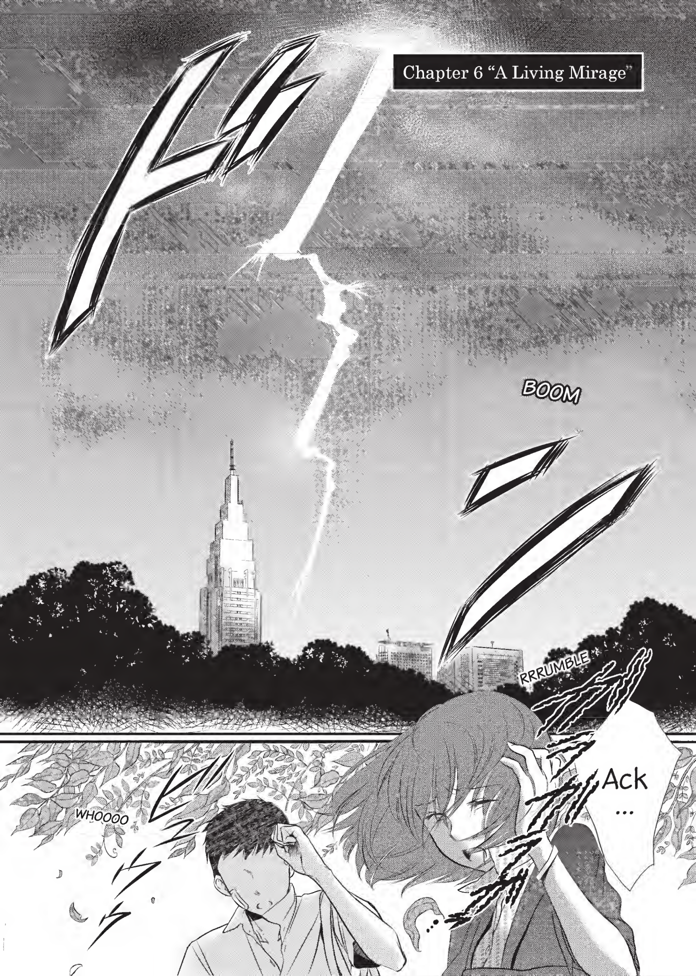

RUS-TLE

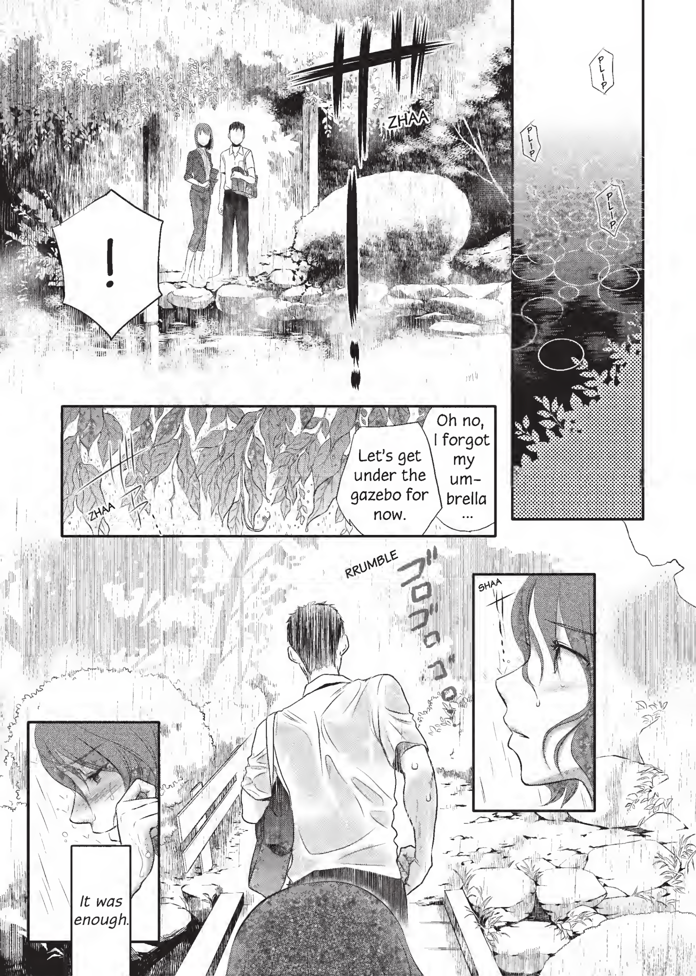

Even when
no thunder sounds
and no rain falls...
If you but ask me,
then I will stay beside you.
ゴロゴロ
RRRUMBLE
If it...
rains...
"Will you stay beside me?"
The response poem goes,
"Even if it doesn't rain at all, I'll stay here with you."
Man'yoshu.
It was in the textbook.
Yes...
that's correct.
The response poem to the poem I quoted when we first met.

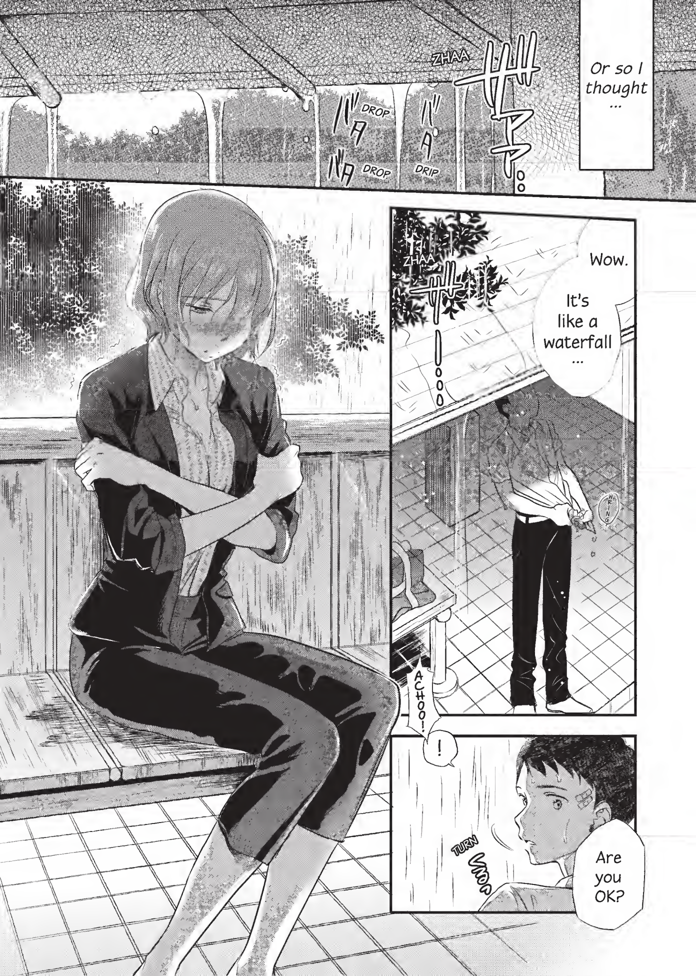

So you taught at my school,
パシャ
SPLISH
Ms. Yukino ...

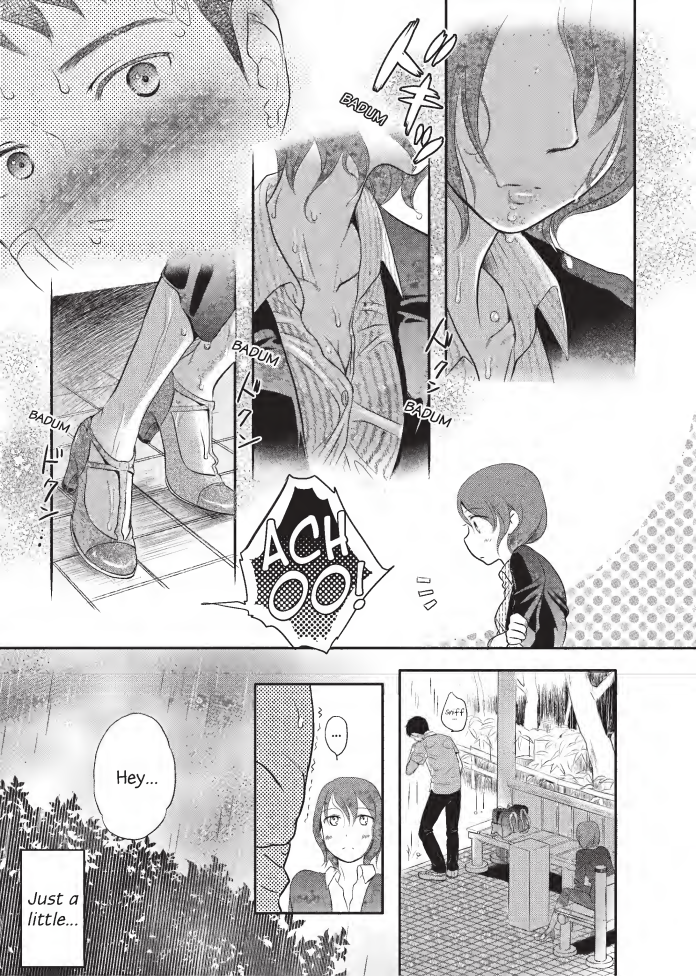

I wanted to see you one last time.
ゴロゴロゴロ…
RRRUMBLE
Oh...
So Sato told you...
Yes.
I'm sorry.
I figured the whole school knew about it...
Just being able to look her in the eye
and speak to her was enough.
No...
RUSTLE
...
Hey...
That wound ...
FLASH

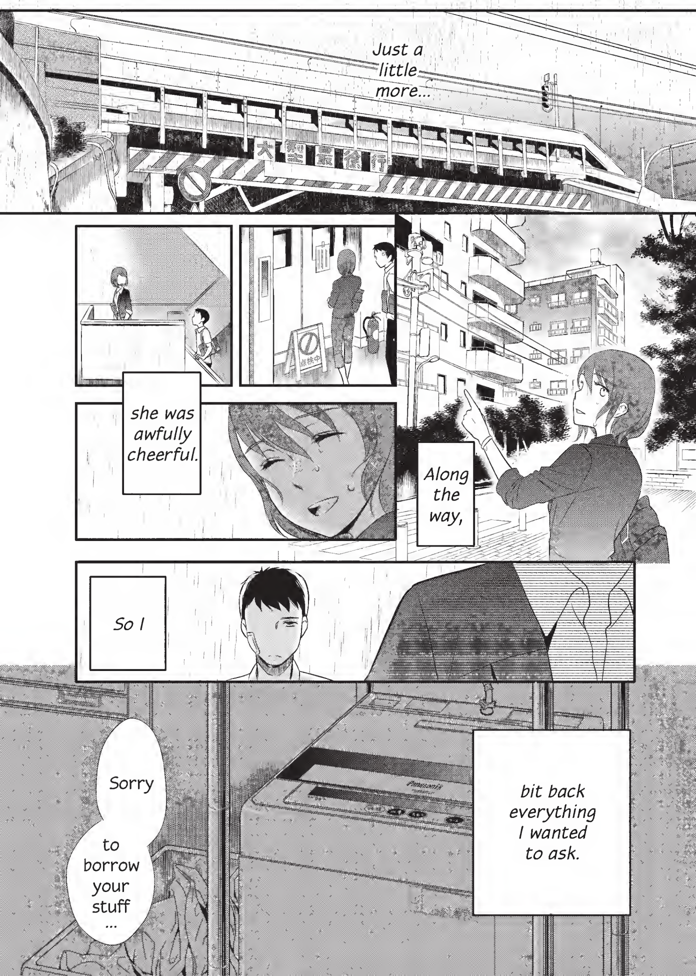
Chapter 6 “A Living Mirage”

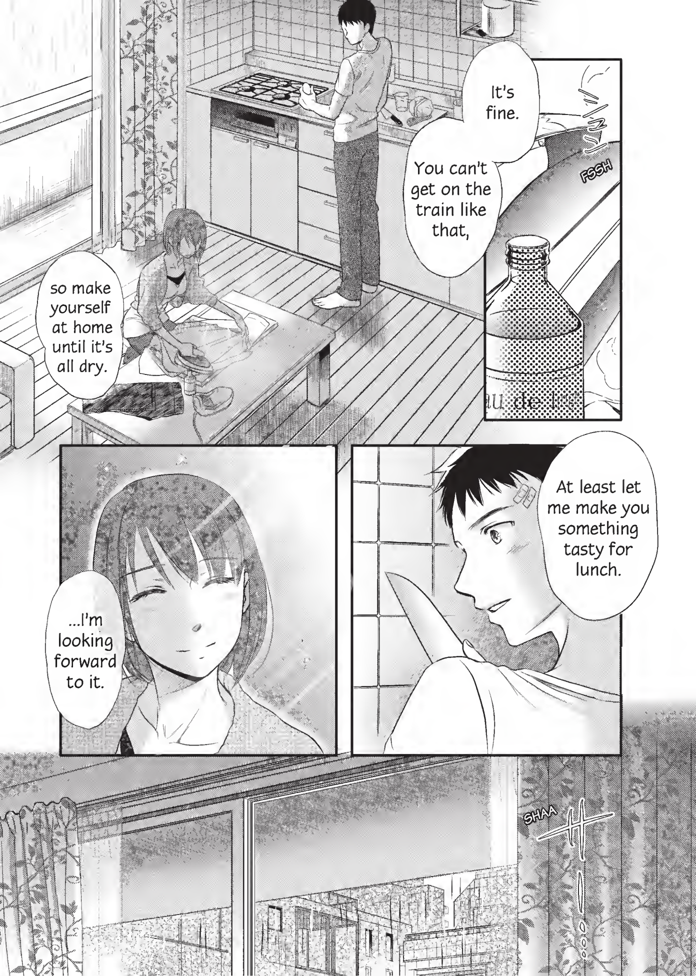

BOOM
RRRUMBLE
Ack …
WHOOOO
…

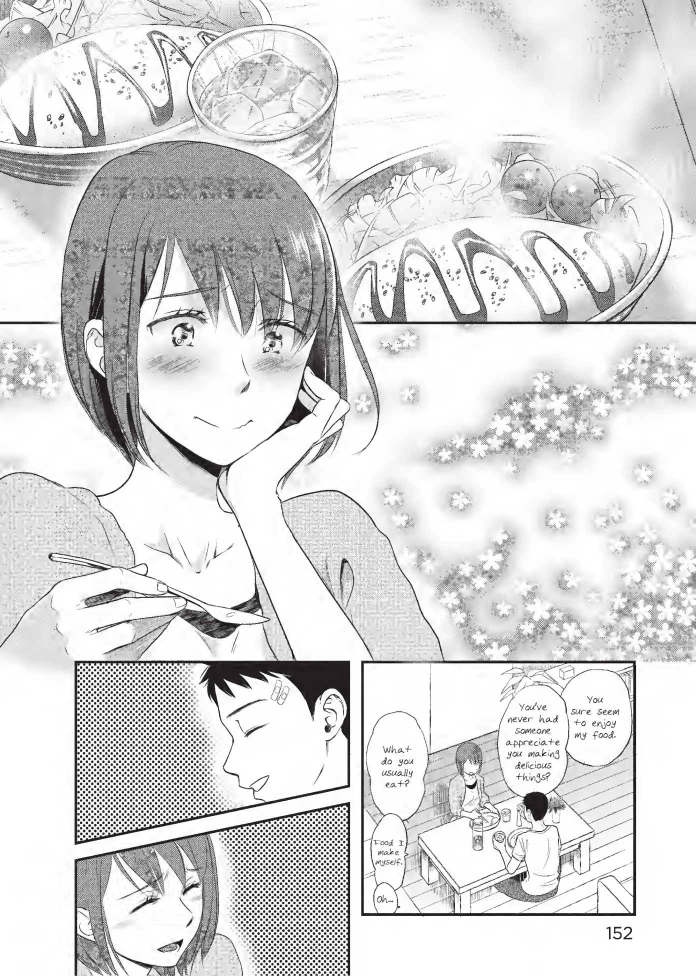

PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
ZHAA
!
Oh no, I forgot my umbrella ...
Let's get under the gazebo for now.
ZHAA
SHAA
RRUMBLE
ゴロゴロ
It was enough.

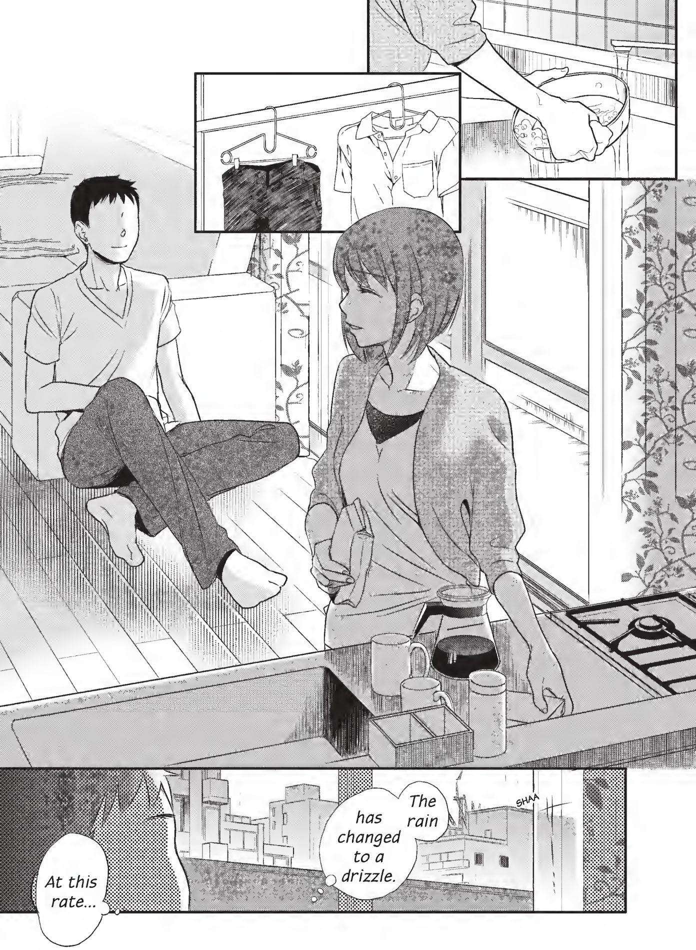

Or so I thought ...
ZHAA
DRIP
DROP
DROP
Wow.
It's like a waterfall ...
ZHAA
WRING
ACHOO!!
!
TURN
Are you OK?

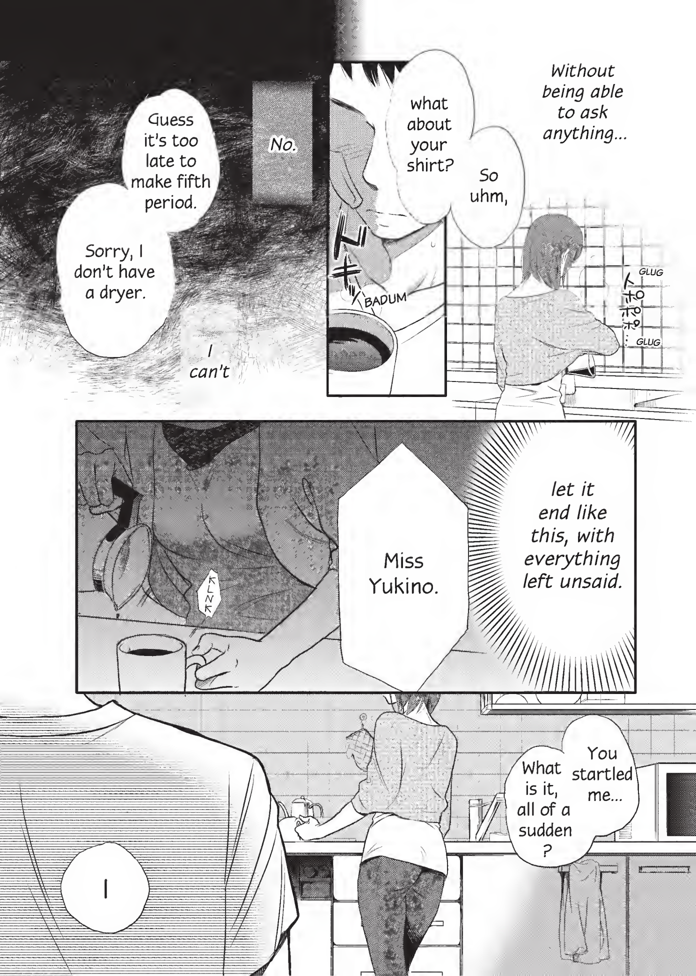

ドキッ
BADUM
ドクン
BADUM
BADUM
ドクン
BADUM
ドクン…
ACHOO!
Sniff
…
…
Hey…
Just a little…

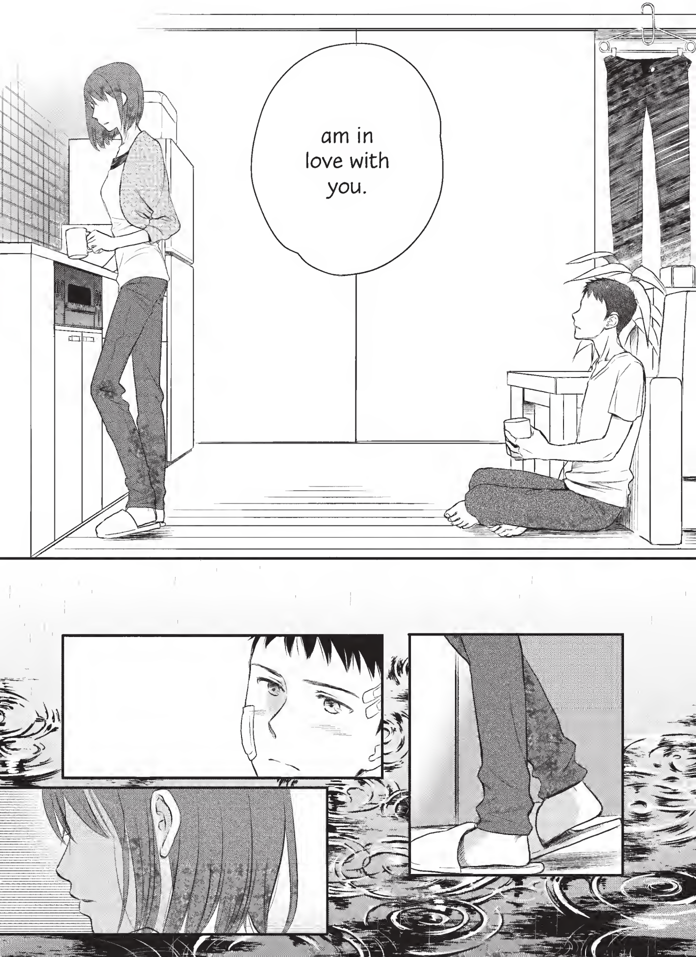

Just a little more...
大型車徐行
Along the way,
she was awfully cheerful.
点検中
So I
bit back everything I wanted to ask.
Sorry to borrow your stuff...

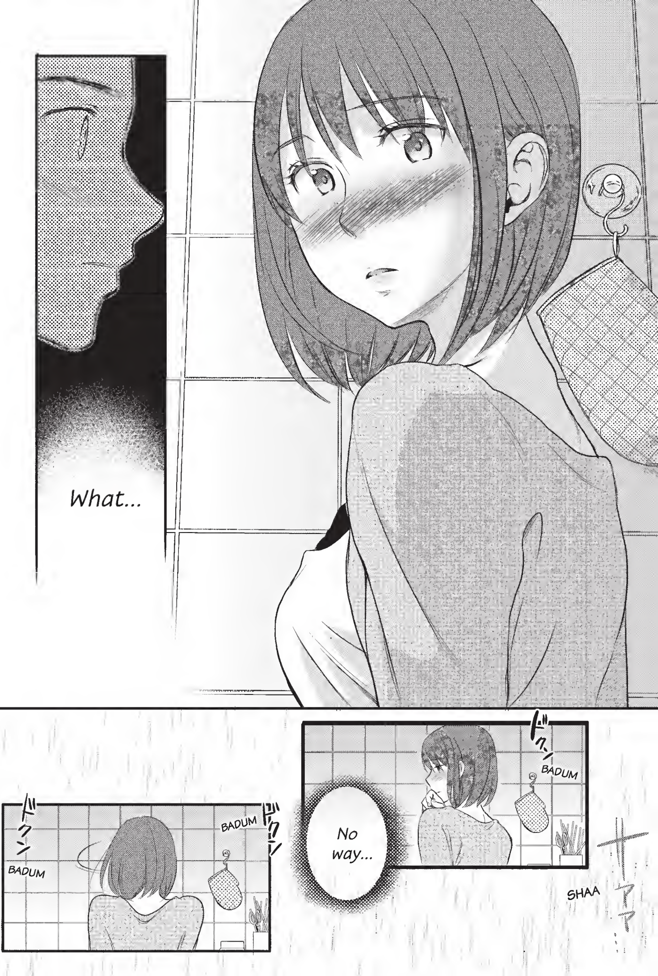

It's fine.
FSSH
You can't get on the train like that,
so make yourself at home until it's all dry.
At least let me make you something tasty for lunch.
...I'm looking forward to it.
SHAA

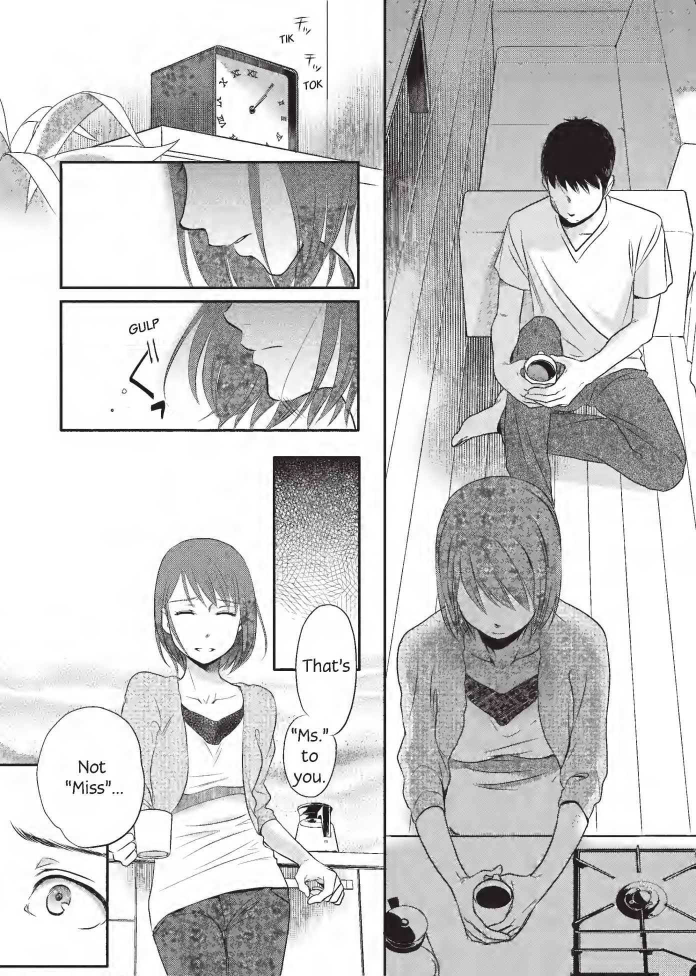

You sure seem to enjoy my food.
You've never had someone appreciate you making delicious things?
What do you usually eat?
Food I make myself.
Oh...

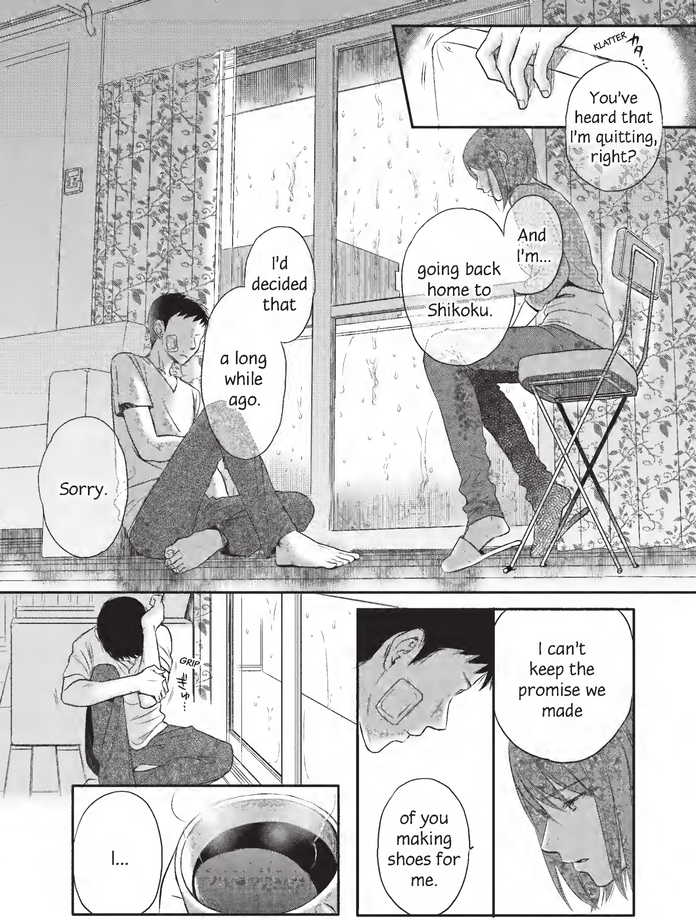

SHAA
The rain has changed to a drizzle.
At this rate...

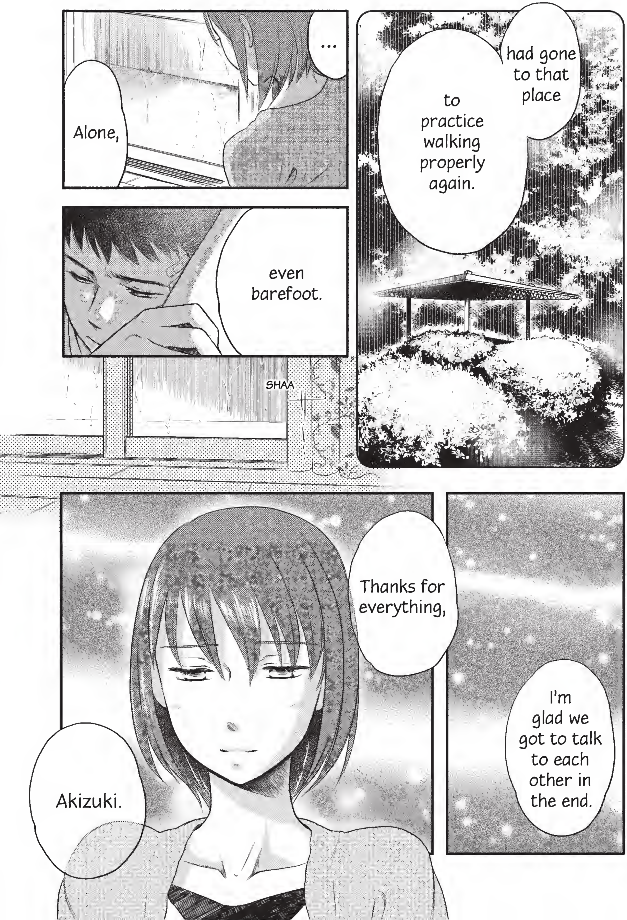

Without being able to ask anything...
So uhm,
what about your shirt?
トポポポ…
GLUG
GLUG
ドキッ
BADUM
No.
Guess it's too late to make fifth period.
Sorry, I don't have a dryer.
I can't
let it end like this, with everything left unsaid.
Miss Yukino.
KLNK
You startled me...
What is it, all of a sudden?
I

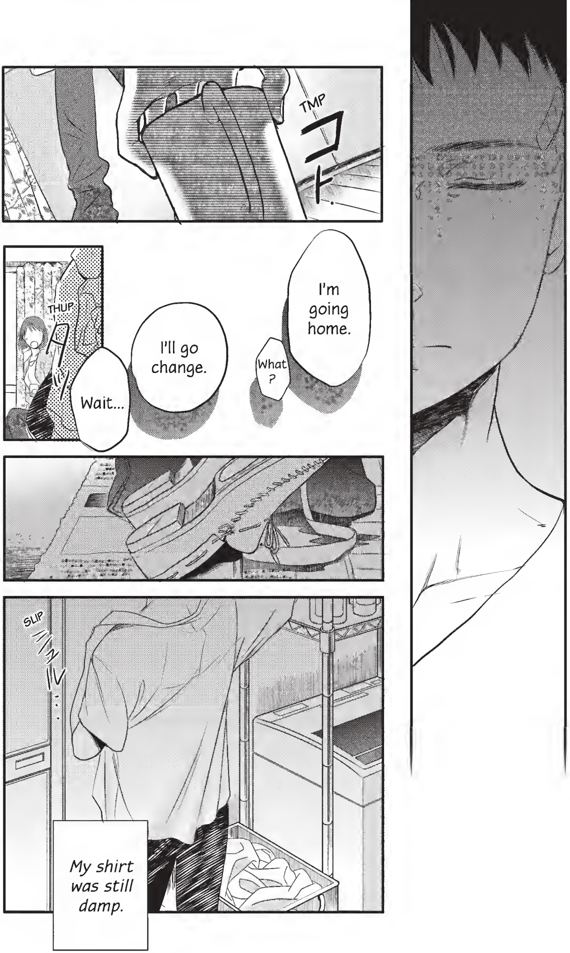

am in
love with
you.

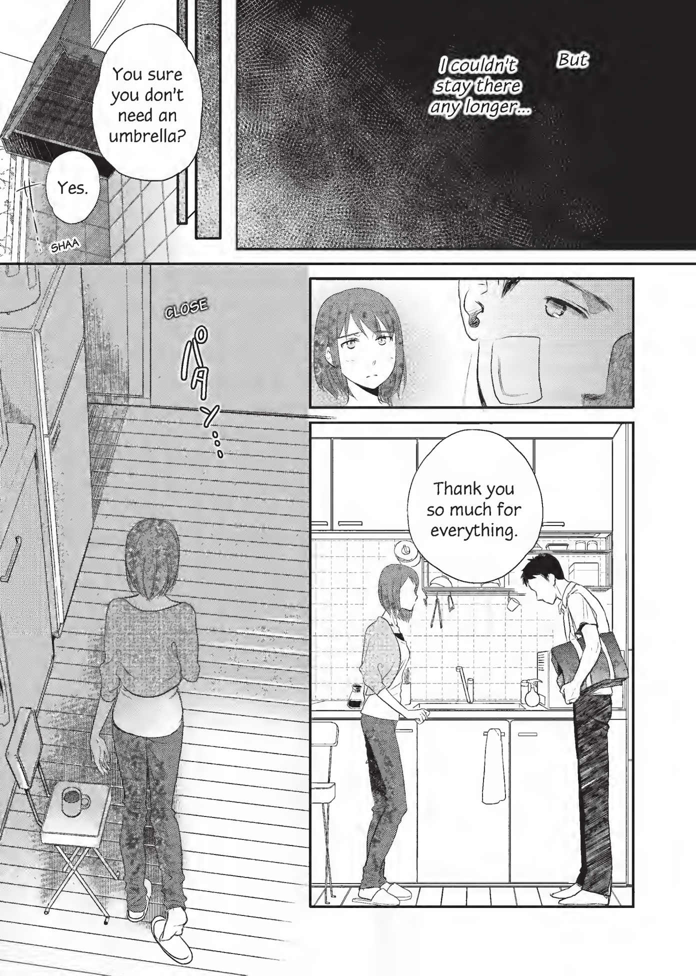

What...
ドクン
BADUM
No way...
ドクン
BADUM
ドクン
BADUM
サァァァ
SHAA

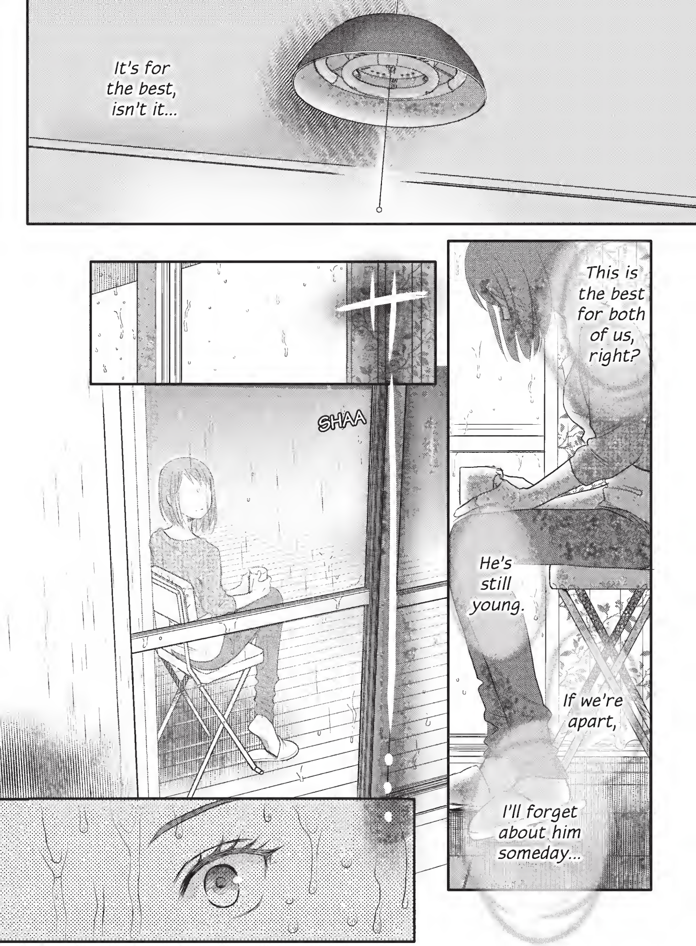

TIK チッ
TOK チッ
GULP
That's "Ms." to you.
Not "Miss"...

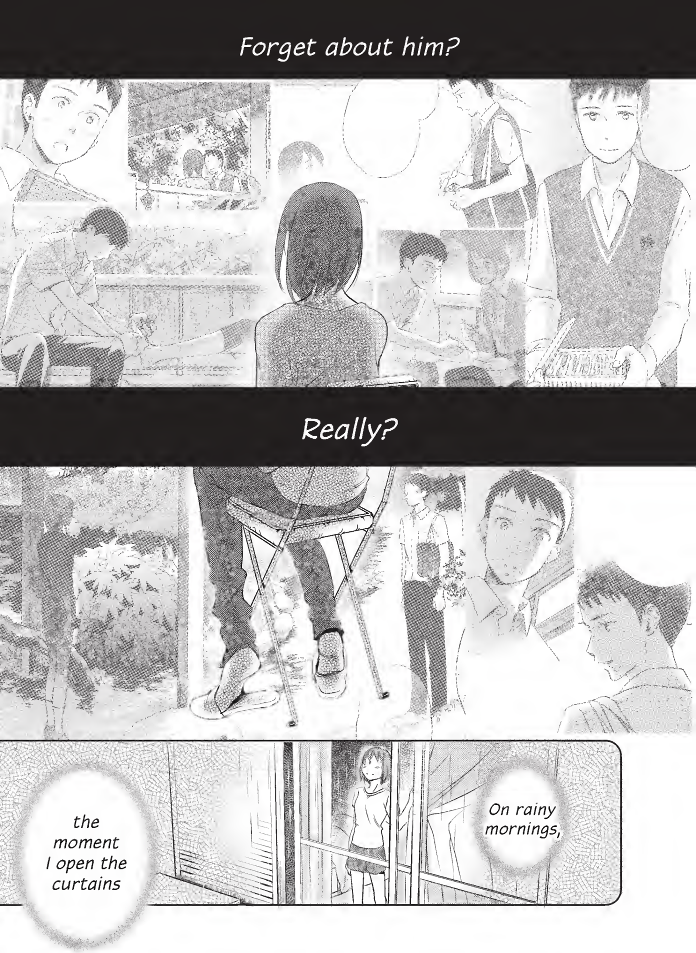

KLATTER カタ…
You've heard that I'm quitting, right?
And I'm...
going back home to Shikoku.
I'd decided that
a long while ago.
Sorry.
I can't keep the promise we made
of you making shoes for me.
GRIP ギュ…
I...

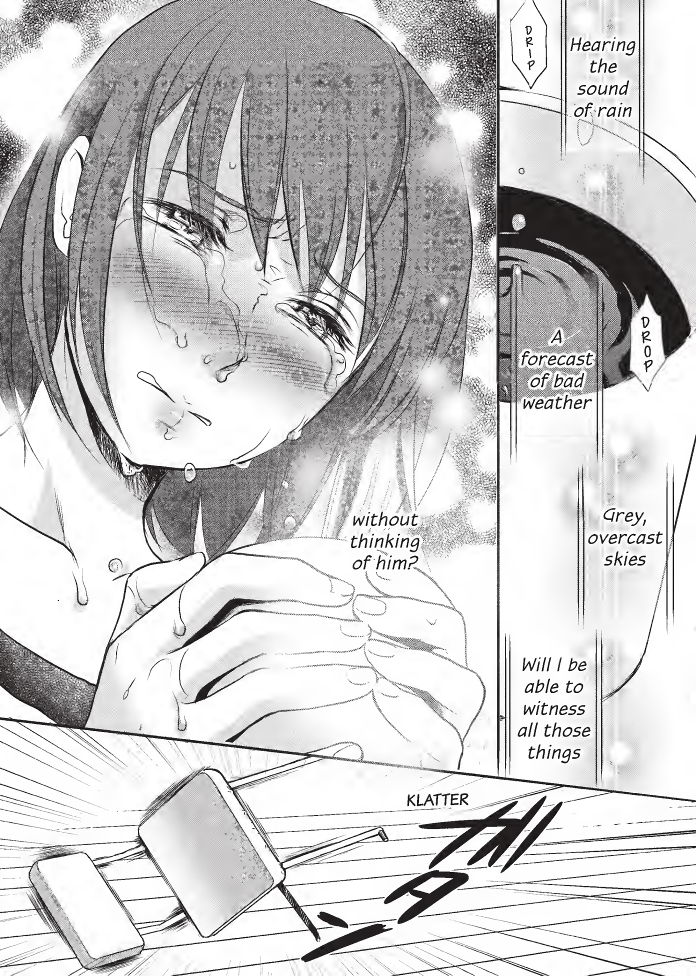

...
Alone,
even barefoot.
had gone to that place
to practice walking properly again.
SHAA
Thanks for everything,
Akizuki.
I'm glad we got to talk to each other in the end.

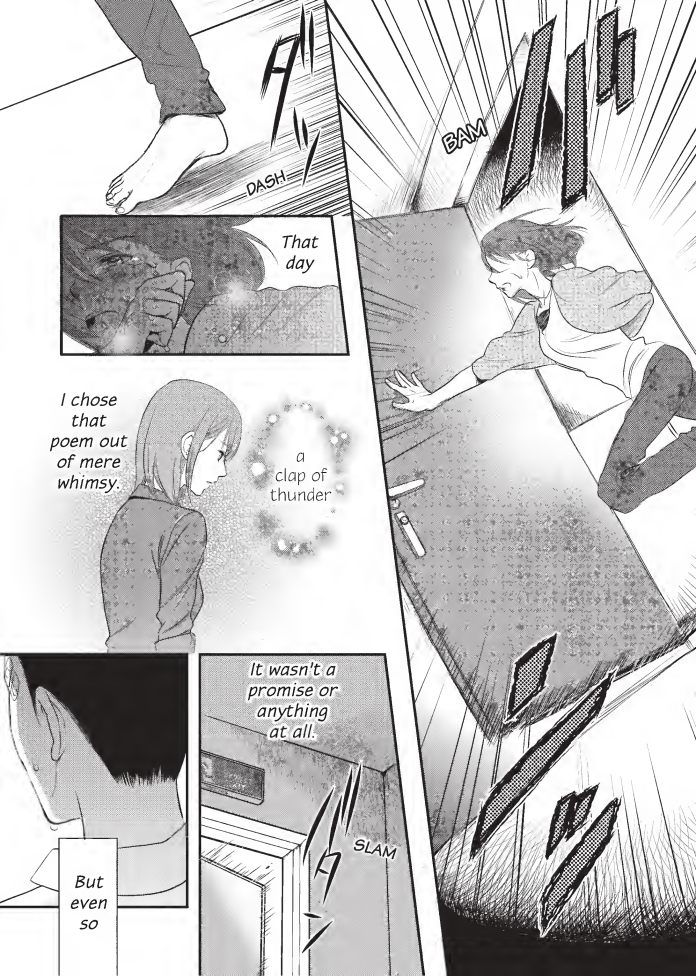

TMP
I'm going home.
What?
I'll go change.
Wait...
THUP
SLIP
My shirt was still damp.

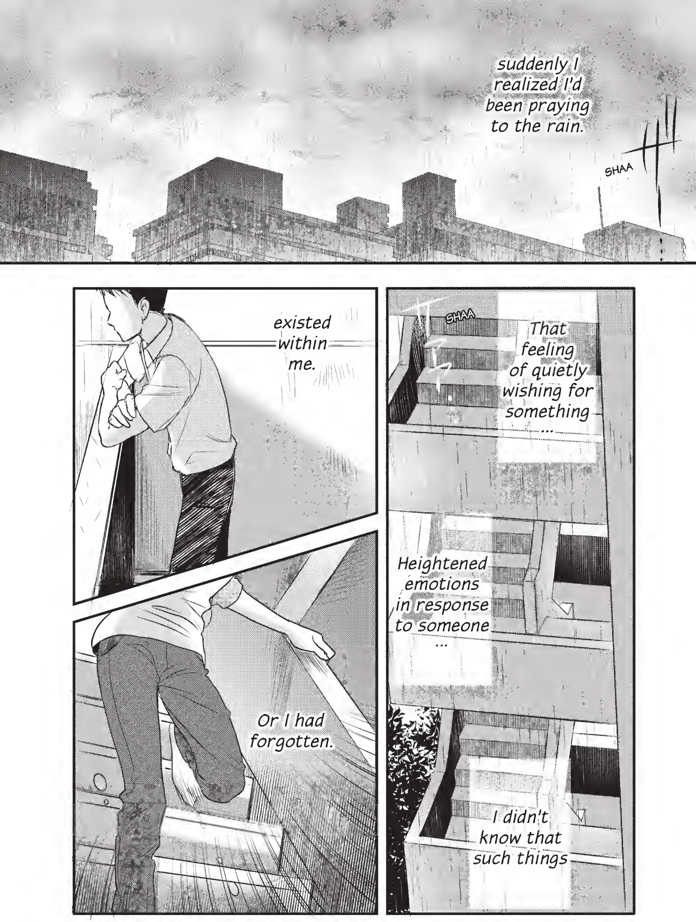

But
I couldn't stay there any longer...
You sure you don't need an umbrella?
Yes.
SHAA
CLOSE
パタ ソ...
Thank you so much for everything.

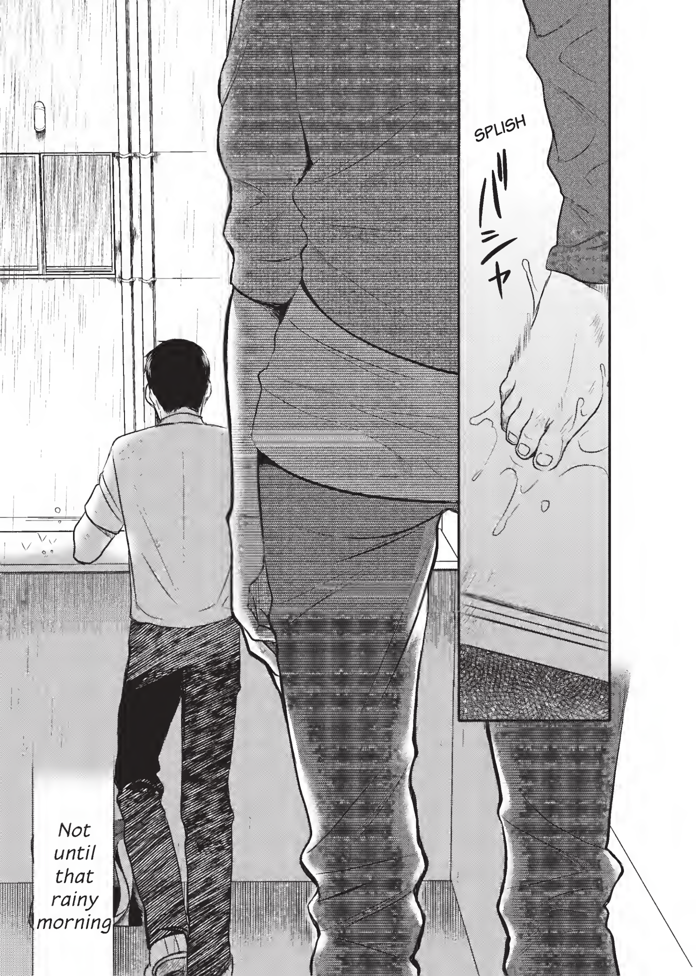

It's for the best, isn't it...
This is the best for both of us, right?
He's still young.
If we're apart,
I'll forget about him someday...
SHAA

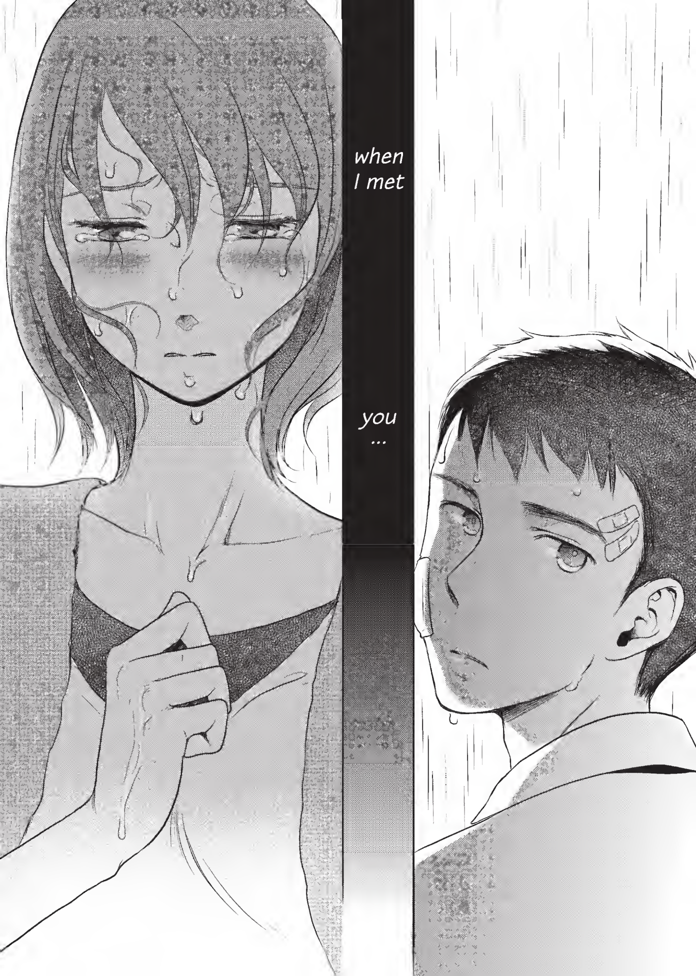

Forget about him?
Really?
On rainy mornings,
the moment I open the curtains

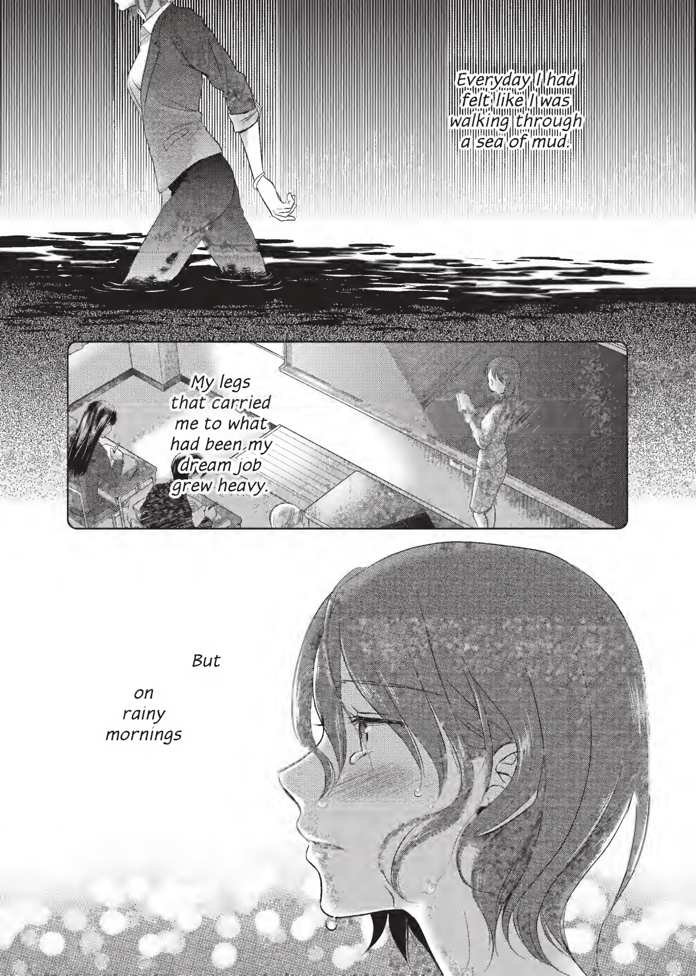

DRIP
Hearing the sound of rain
DROP
A forecast of bad weather
Grey, overcast skies
Will I be able to witness all those things
without thinking of him?
KLATTER
カタン

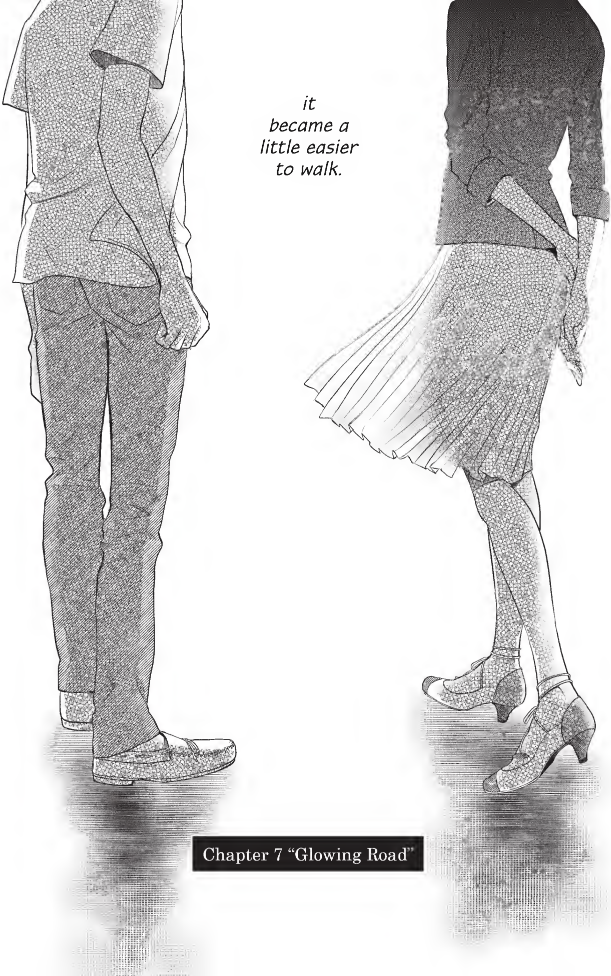

BAM
DASH
That day
I chose that poem out of mere whimsy.
a clap of thunder
It wasn't a promise or anything at all.
SLAM
But even so


suddenly I realized I'd been praying to the rain.
SHAA
SHAA
That feeling of quietly wishing for something ...
Heightened emotions in response to someone ...
I didn't know that such things
existed within me.
Or I had forgotten.


SPLISH
バシャ
Not until that rainy morning

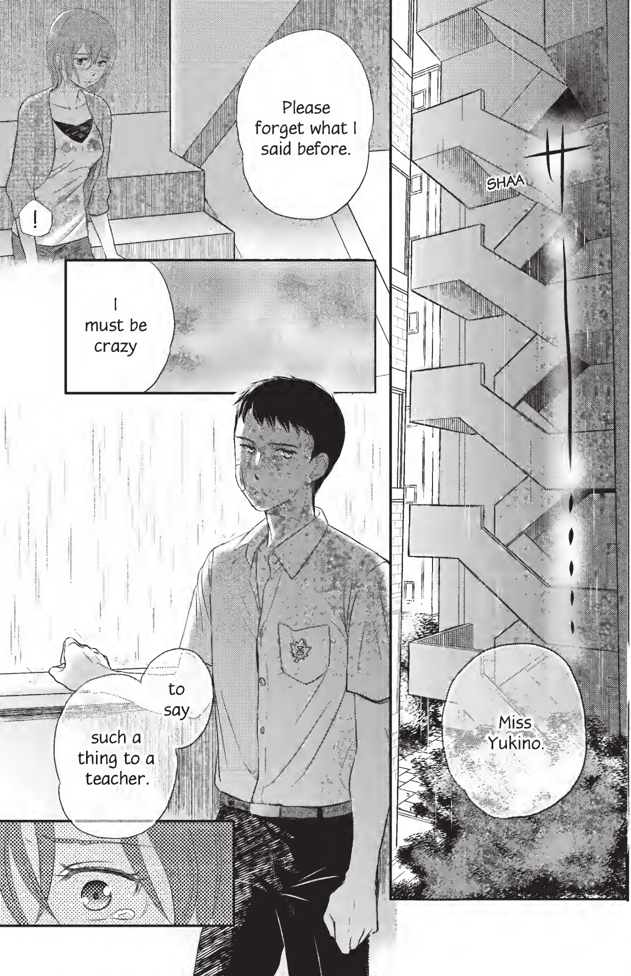

when I met
you ...

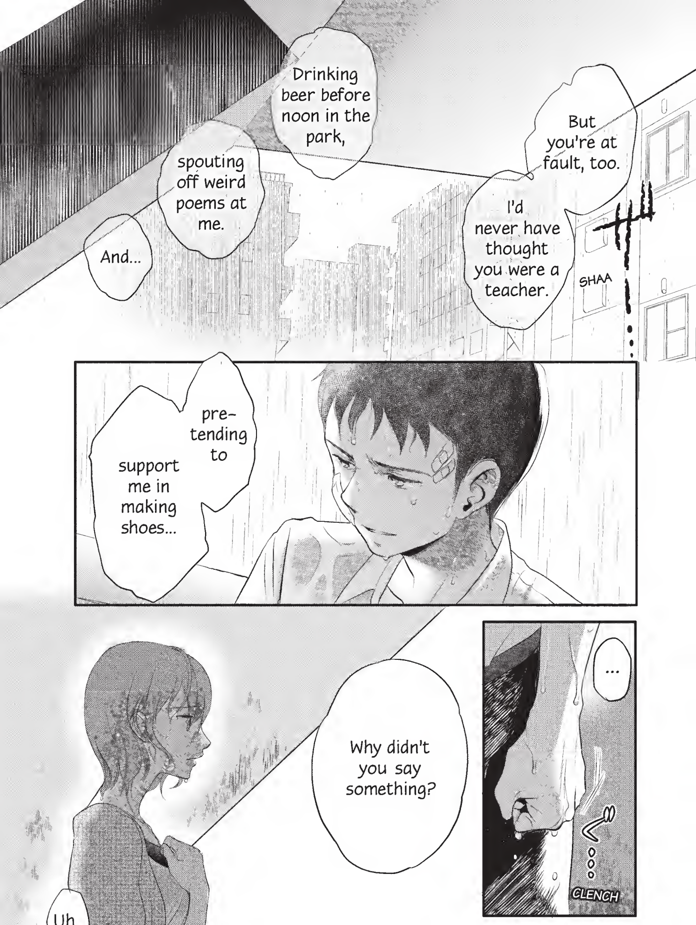

Everyday I had felt like I was walking through a sea of mud.
My legs that carried me to what had been my dream job grew heavy.
But
on rainy mornings

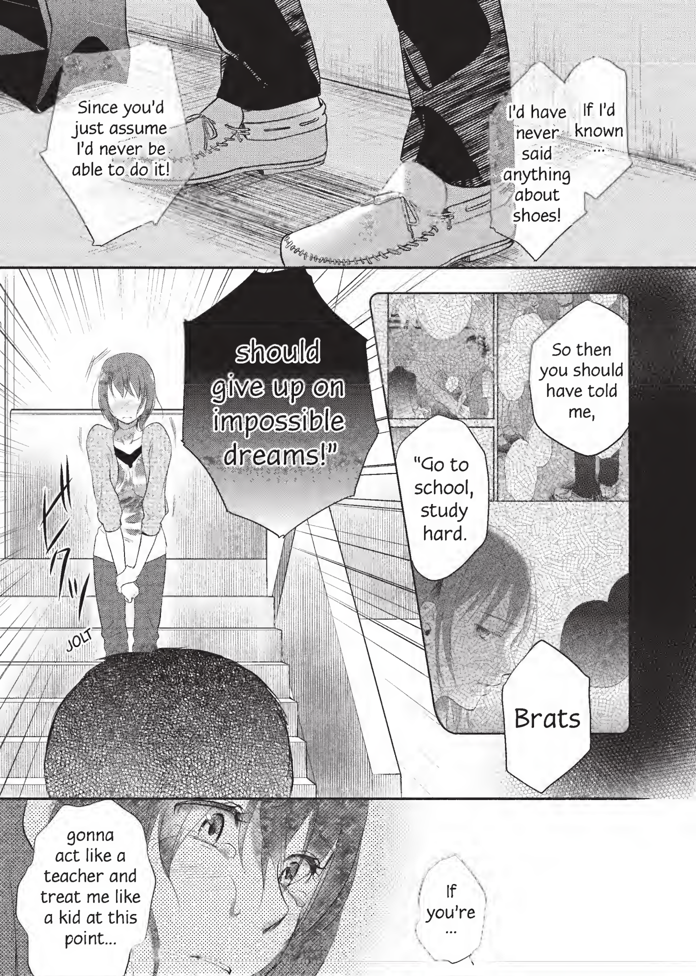


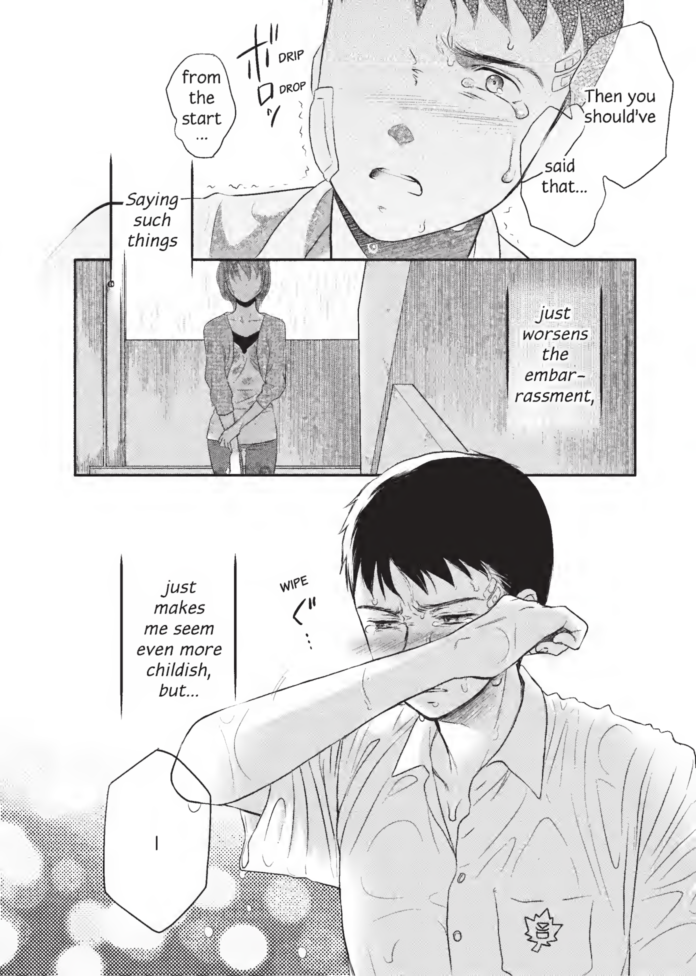
it
became a
little easier
to walk.

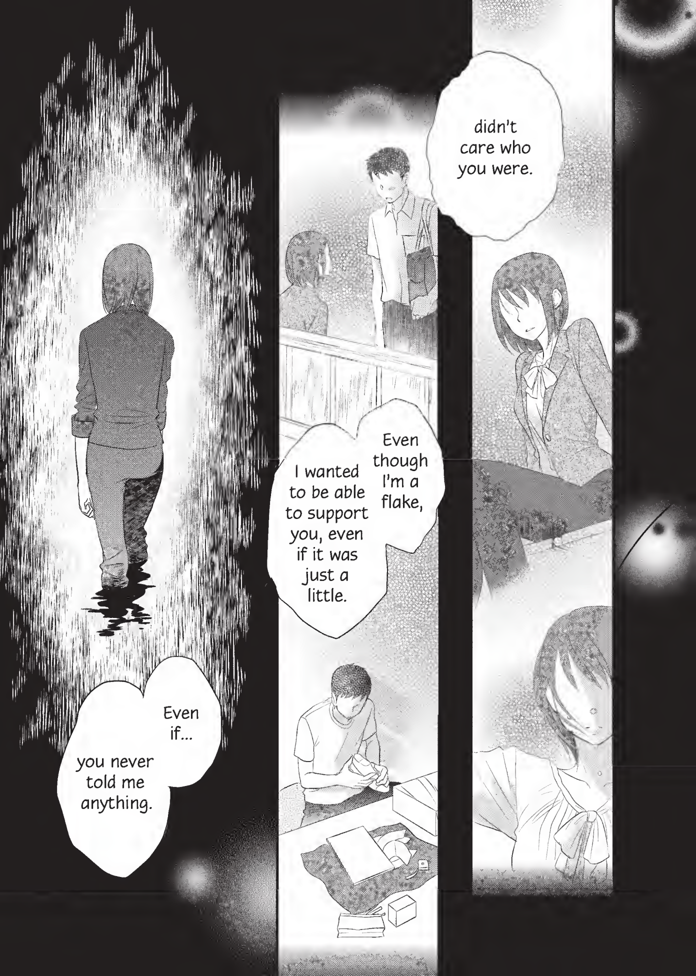
Chapter 7 “Glowing Road”

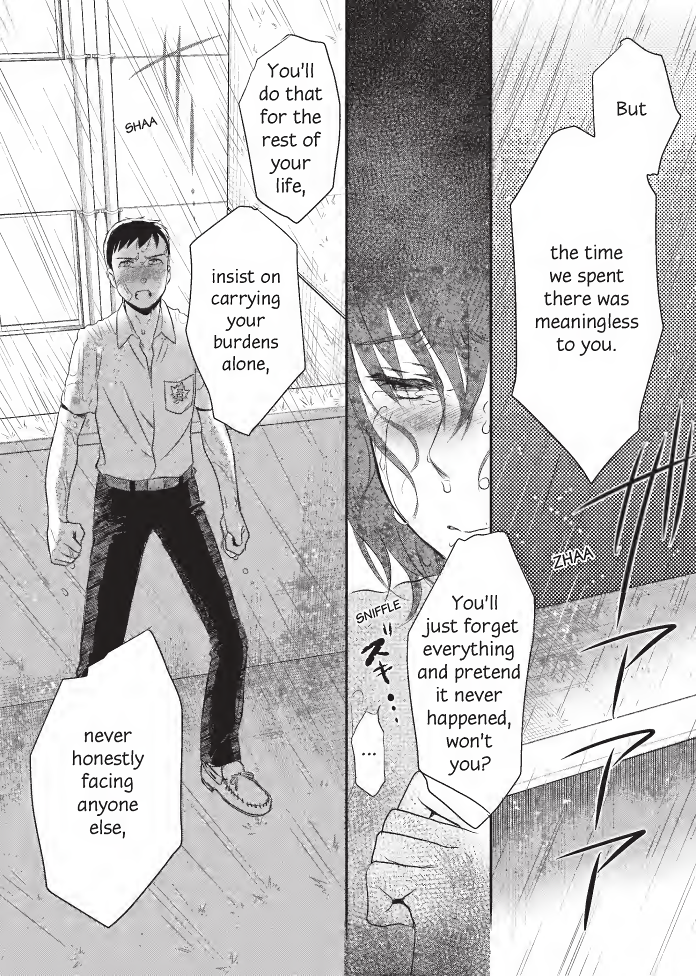

SHAA
Miss Yukino.
Please forget what I said before.
!
I must be crazy
to say
such a thing to a teacher.

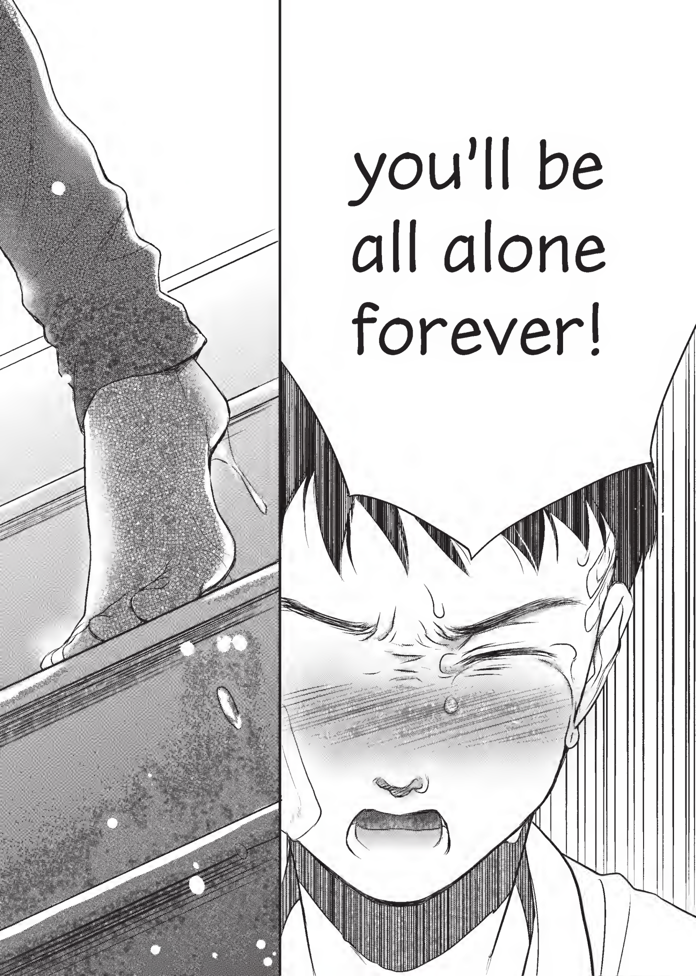

But you're at fault, too.
I'd never have thought you were a teacher.
Drinking beer before noon in the park,
spouting off weird poems at me.
And...
SHAA
pretending to support me in making shoes...
...
CLENCH
Why didn't you say something?
Uh...

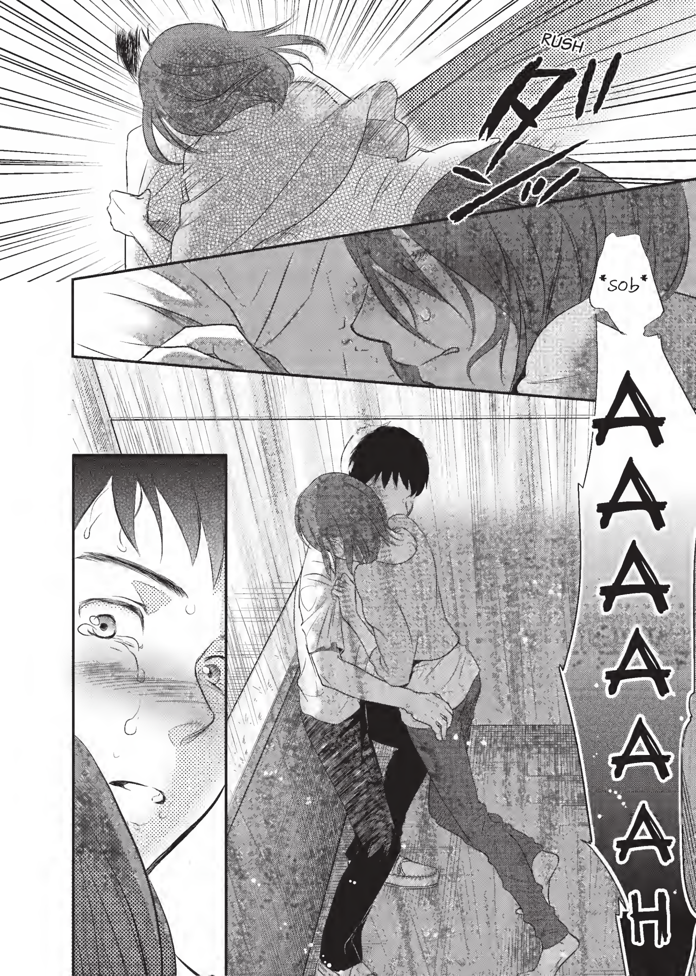

If I'd known ...
I'd have never said anything about shoes!
Since you'd just assume I'd never be able to do it!
So then you should have told me,
"Go to school, study hard.
Brats
should give up on impossible dreams!"
ビクッ
JOLT
If you're ...
gonna act like a teacher and treat me like a kid at this point...

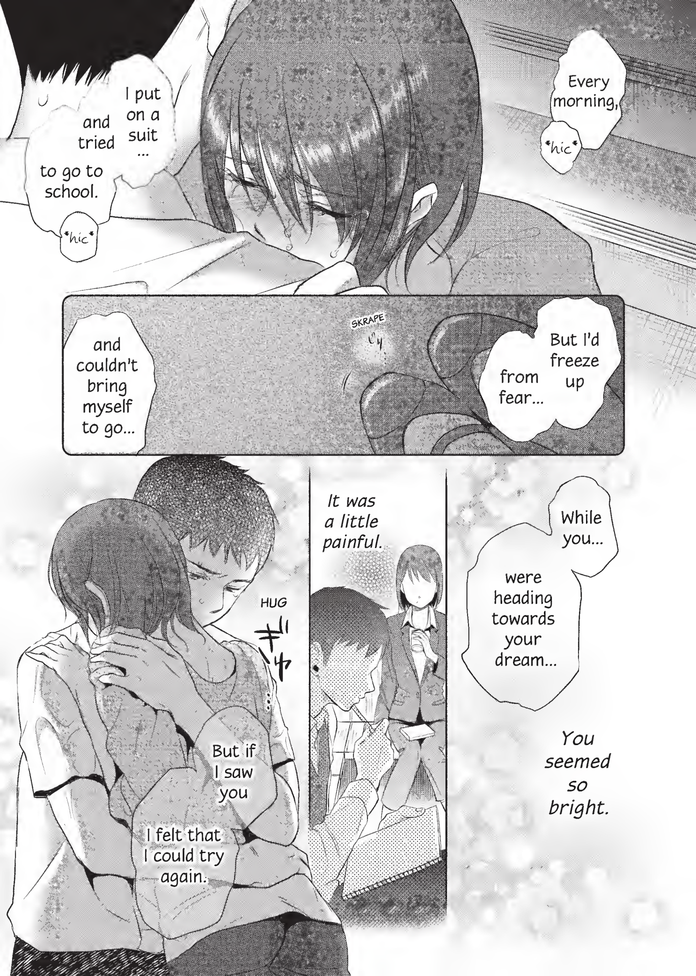

Then you should've said that...
from the start ...
ボロッ
DRIP
DROP
Saying such things
just worsens the embarrassment,
ぐ
WIPE
just makes me seem even more childish, but...
I

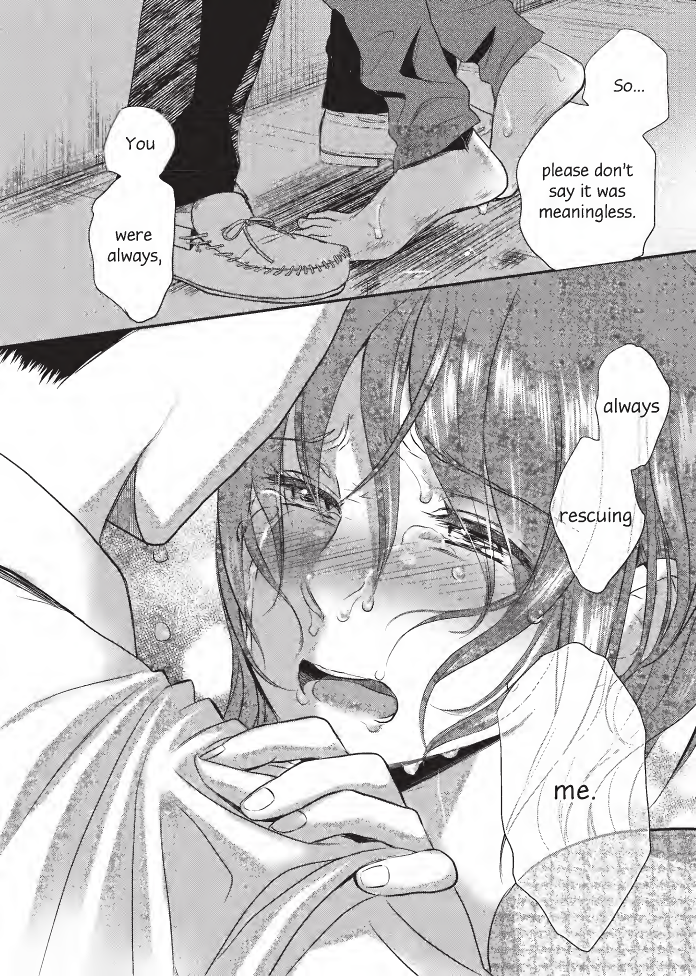

didn't care who you were.
Even though I'm a flake,
I wanted to be able to support you, even if it was just a little.
Even if...
you never told me anything.

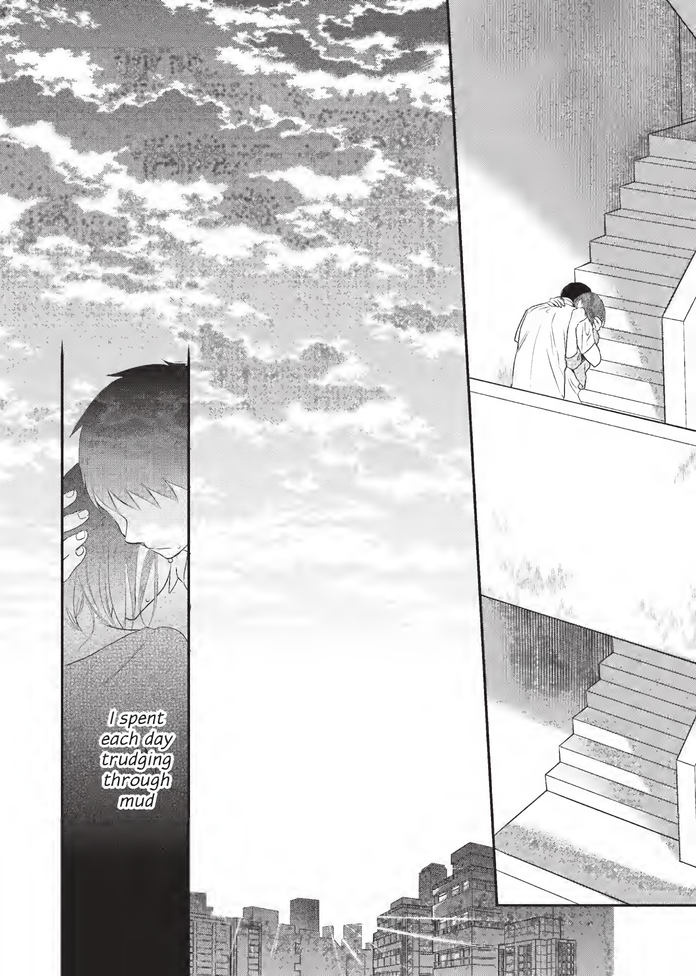

But
the time we spent there was meaningless to you.
ZHAA
You'll just forget everything and pretend it never happened, won't you?
SNIFFLE
...
SHAA
You'll do that for the rest of your life,
insist on carrying your burdens alone,
never honestly facing anyone else,

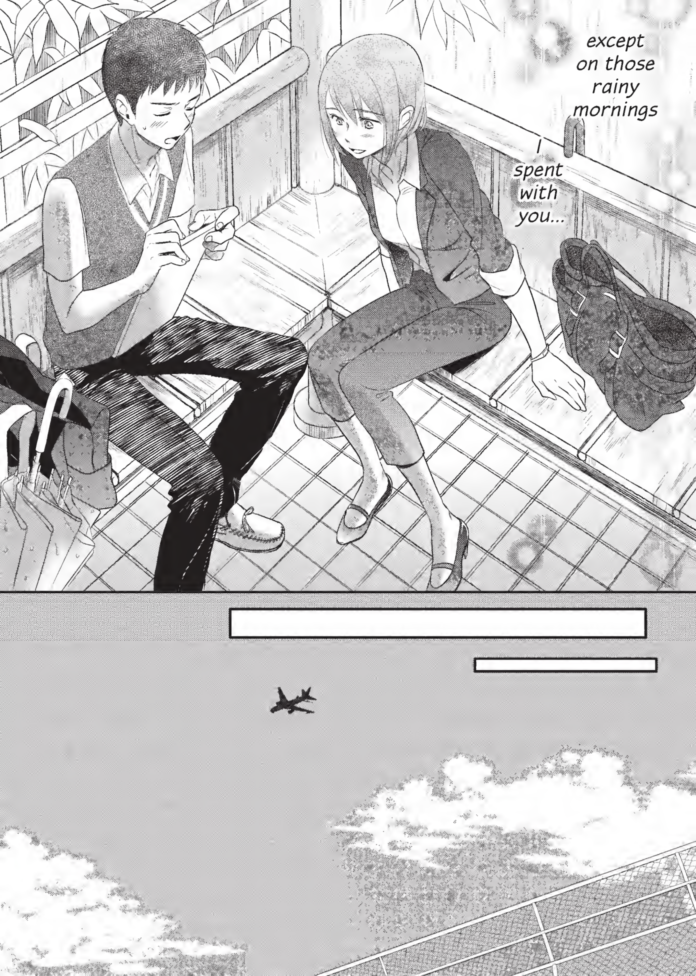

you'll be all alone forever!

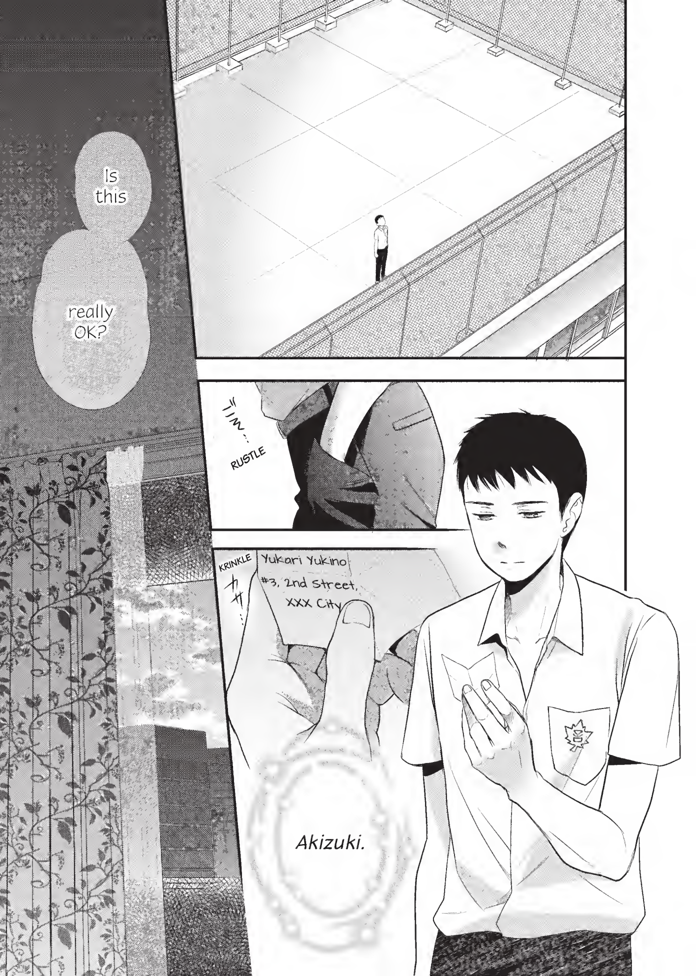

RUSH
ダッ
sob
AAAAAAH

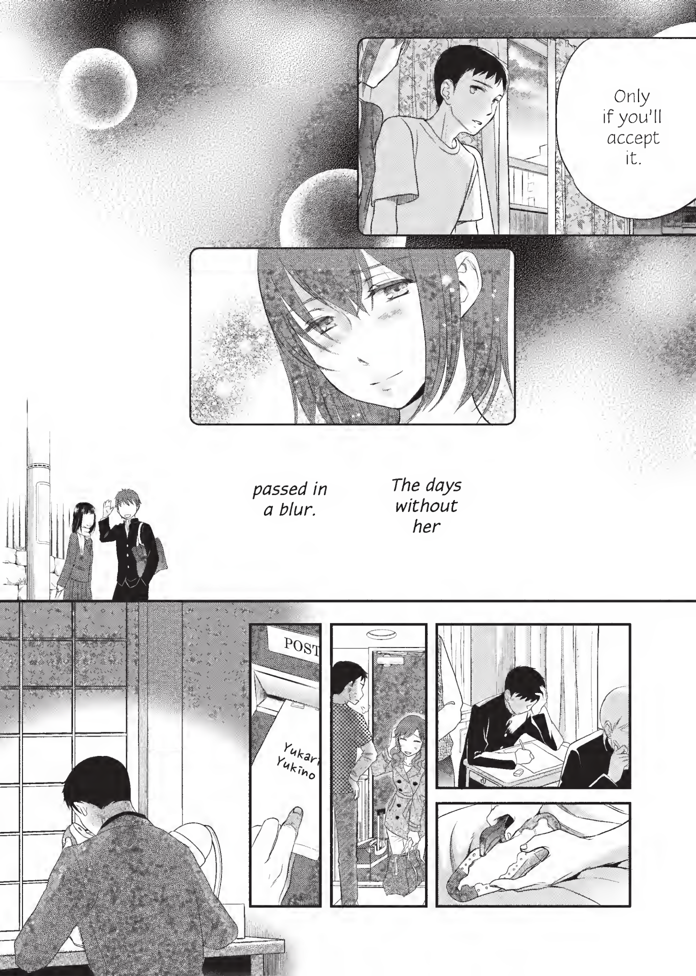

Every morning,
hic
I put on a suit ...
and tried
to go to school.
hic
But I'd freeze up
from fear...
SKRAPE
and couldn't bring myself to go...
While you...
were heading towards your dream...
You seemed so bright.
It was a little painful.
HUG
ギュ
But if I saw you
I felt that I could try again.

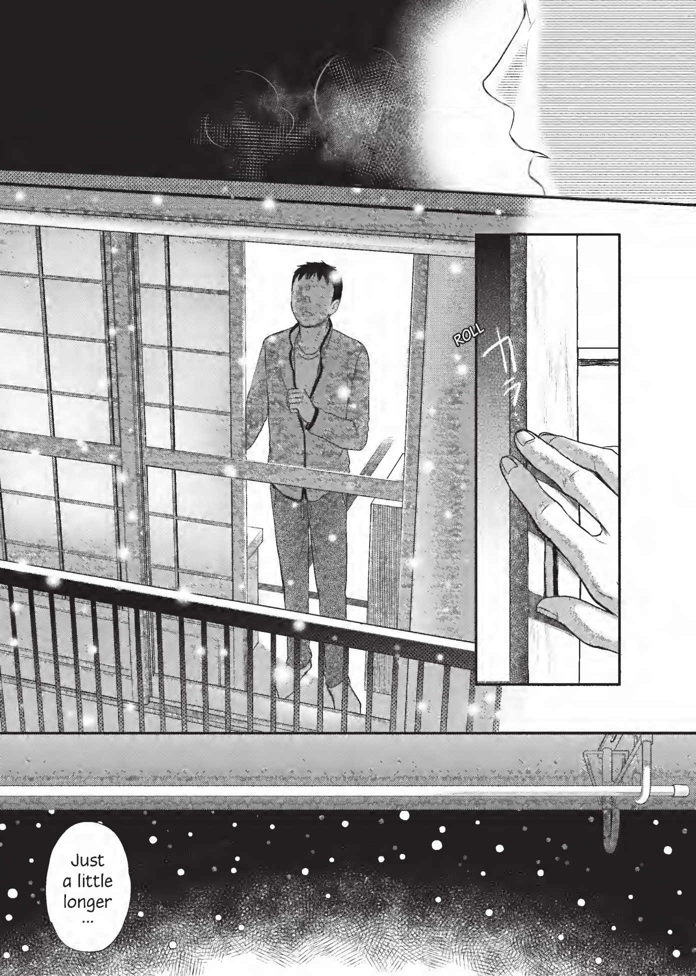

So... please don't say it was meaningless.
You were always,
always rescuing me.

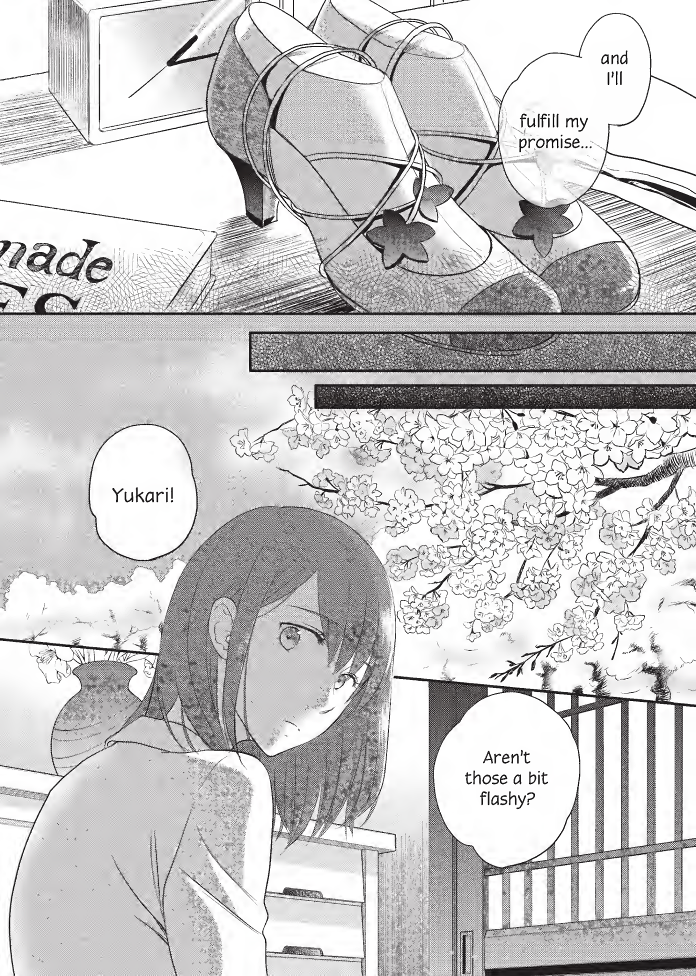

I spent each day trudging through mud

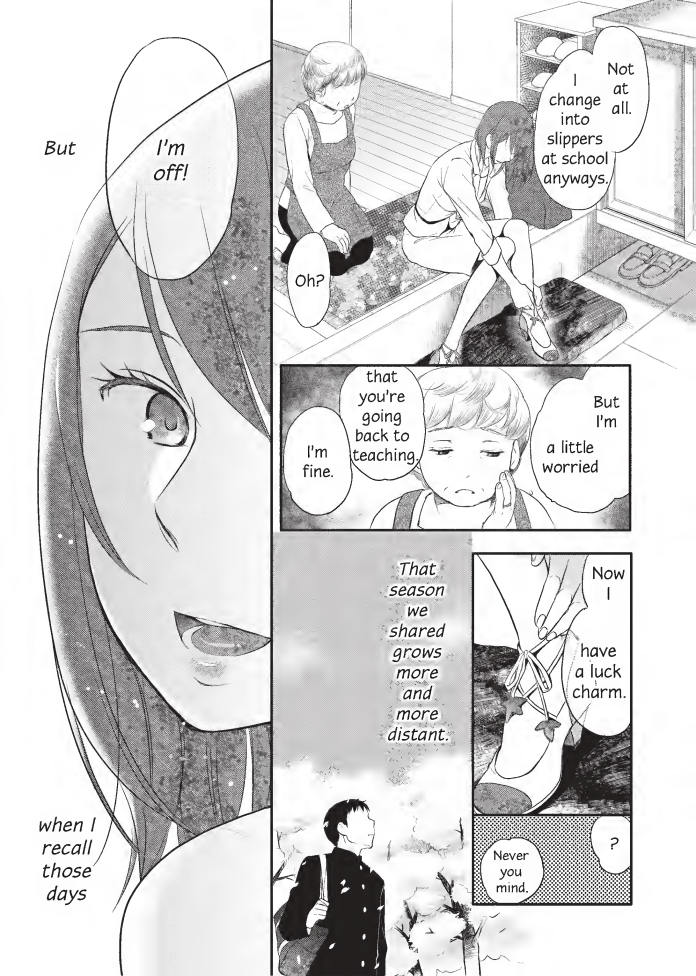

except on those rainy mornings
I spent with you...

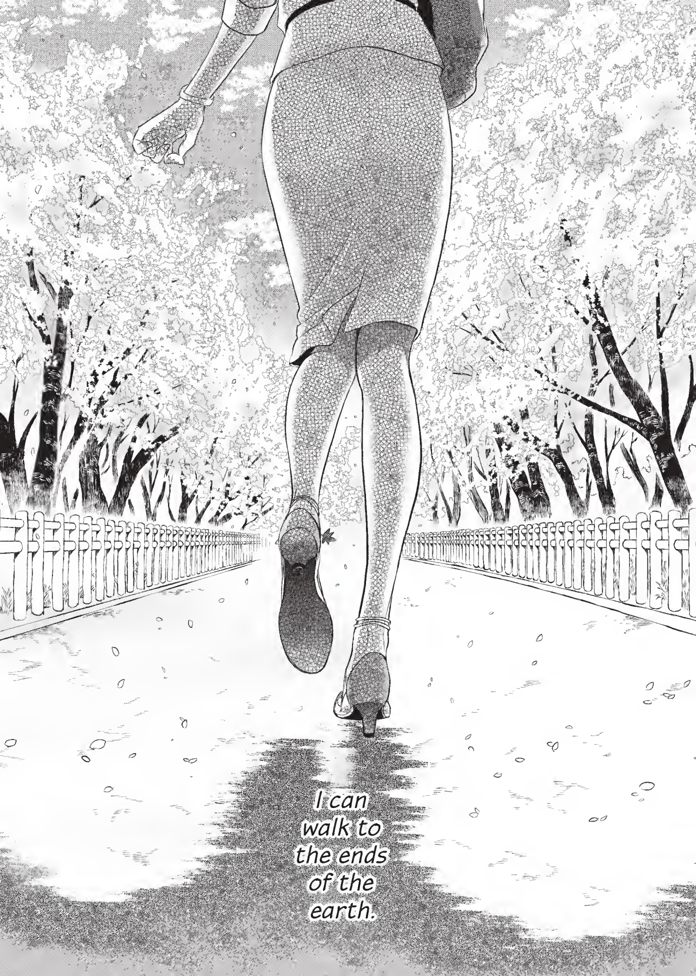

Is this
really OK?
ゴソ…
RUSTLE
KRINKLE
カサ…
Yukari Yukino
#3, 2nd Street,
XXX City
Akizuki.


Only if you'll accept it.
The days without her
passed in a blur.
POST
Yukari Yukino


ROLL
カラ
Just a little longer ...

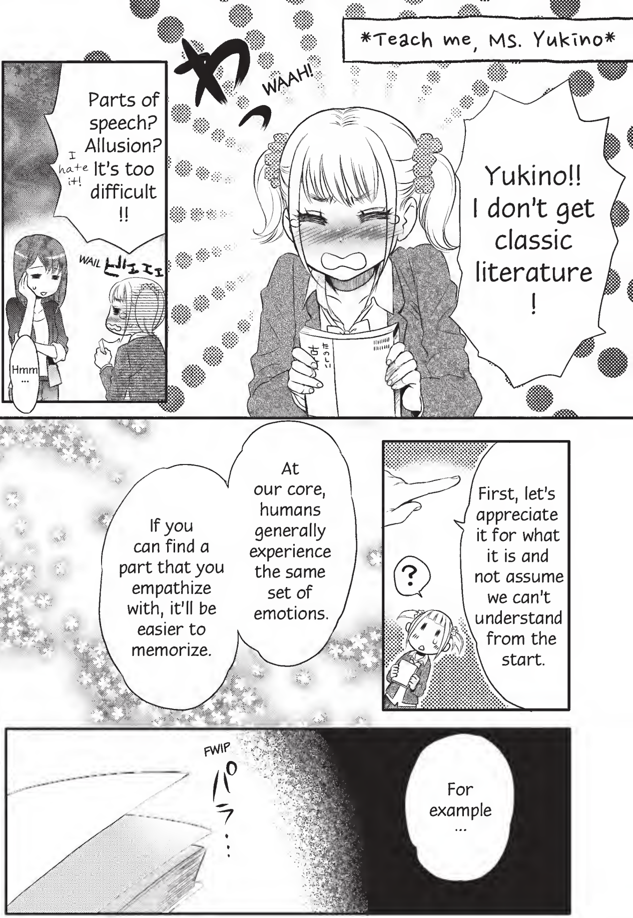

and I'll fulfill my promise...
made
Yukari!
Aren't those a bit flashy?

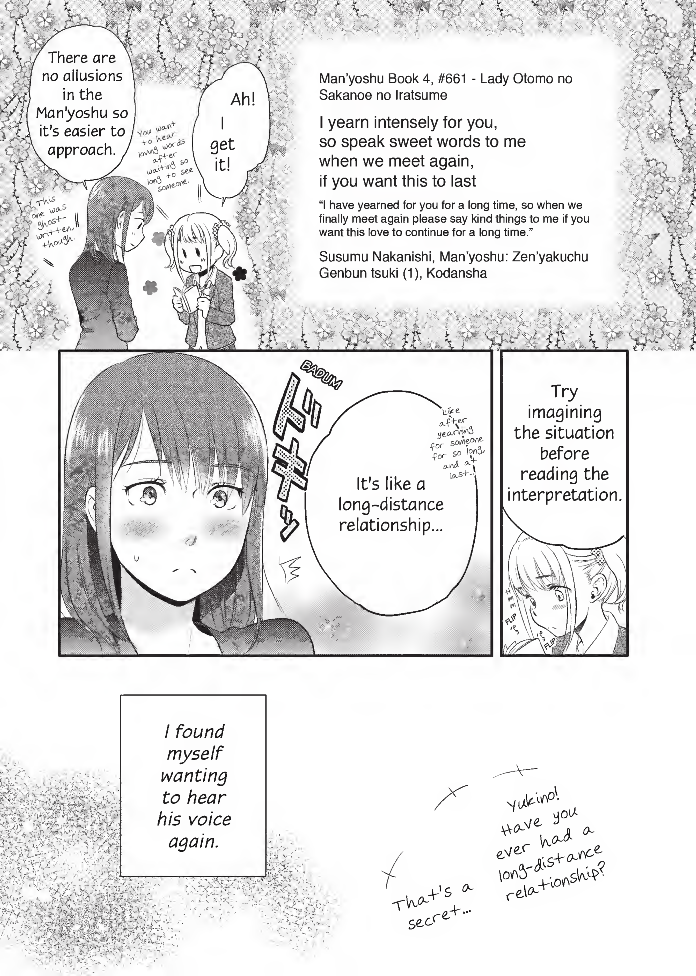

Not at all.
I change into slippers at school anyways.
Oh?
But I'm a little worried
that you're going back to teaching.
I'm fine.
Now I have a luck charm.
?
Never you mind.
That season we shared grows more and more distant.
But
I'm off!
when I recall those days


I can walk to the ends of the earth.

The Garden of Words

End


Teach me, Ms. Yukino
Yukino!! I don't get classic literature!
WAAH!
わっ
たのしい古文
Parts of speech? Allusion? It's too difficult!!
I hate it!
WAIL
ビエエエ
Hmm...
First, let's appreciate it for what it is and not assume we can't understand from the start.
?
At our core, humans generally experience the same set of emotions.
If you can find a part that you empathize with, it'll be easier to memorize.
For example ...
FWIP
パラ…



Man'yoshu Book 4, #661 - Lady Otomo no Sakanoe no Iratsume

I yearn intensely for you,
so speak sweet words to me
when we meet again,
if you want this to last

“I have yearned for you for a long time, so when we finally meet again please say kind things to me if you want this love to continue for a long time.”

Susumu Nakanishi, Man'yoshu: Zen'yakuchu Genbun tsuki (1), Kodansha

Ah! I get it!
You want to hear loving words after waiting so long to see someone.
There are no allusions in the Man'yoshu so it's easier to approach.
This one was ghost-written, though.
Try imagining the situation before reading the interpretation.
Hmm
FLIP
FLIP
BADUM
It's like a long-distance relationship...
Like after yearning for someone for so long, and at last...
Yukino! Have you ever had a long-distance relationship?
That's a secret...
I found myself wanting to hear his voice again.

Afterword

Thank you for reading.
It was thanks to the help of various people that this omnibus edition was released.
I drew the artwork to the best of my abilities.

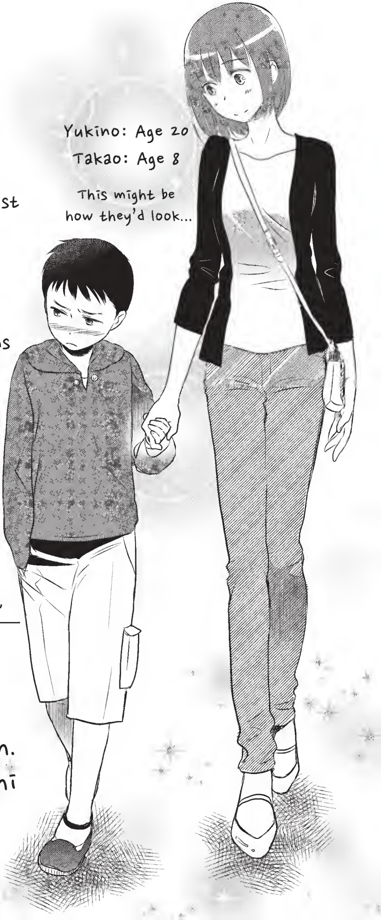
Special Thanks

Makoto Shinkai, Director
The team at CoMix Wave Films
Kawamura, managing editor

Art Assistants
Wataru Akizuki
Uta Isaki
Nozomi Isami
Hideyuki Ishikawa
Hano
Kagetora Hidari

My husband, my whole family, my friends the Dadamore Club— and to everyone who read this far.

Thank You very Much.
Midori Motohashi


Yukino: Age 20
Takao: Age 8
This might be how they'd look...

The Garden of Words

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

STORY BY Makoto Shinkai, ART BY Midori Motohashi

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Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Maya Rosewood

WRONG WAY

Japanese books, including manga like this one,
are meant to be read from right to left.
So the front cover is actually the back cover, and vice versa.
To read this book, please flip it over
and start in the top right-hand corner.
Read the panels, and the bubbles in the panels,
from right to left,
then drop down to the next row and repeat.
It may make you dizzy at first,
but forcing your brain to do things backwards
makes you smarter in the long run.
We swear.